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2. If a person orders his papers discontinued, he may pay all arrearages, or the publisher may continue to send them until payment is made, and collect the whole amount whether the paper is taken from the office or not.

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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. XI.—NO. 12. WEEKLY EDITION. JANUARY 31, 1874.

HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE

Special to Pittsburgh Press.

SENATE.

HARRISBURG, January 22, 1874.

A number of bills that have been lying in committees were reported on favorably.

Mr. Maclay—An act relating to county treasurers.

Mr. Graham—An act for the publication of the legal notices of Sheriffs, Recorders and others.

Mr. McKinley—An act regulating the compensation of county officers.

Mr. Anderson, of Allegheny—An act establishing a State homeopathic hospital for the insane.

An act to amend the act incorporating iron and steel companies was the only one registered.

The resolution for Purdon's Digest came up on second reading, and a great deal of opposition was made to its passage. Amendments were offered by Messrs. White and Ermentrout, but were voted down. It finally reached a third reading by a vote of 15 ayes to 12 nays.

Mr. Brockway's paper bill was cut considerably by the Senate committee.

The bill for advertising the new Constitution passed up to a third reading without amendments. It provides payment for papers that published the new Constitution without proper authority.

HOUSE.

Mr. Newmyer's Orphans' Court bill was amended, extending its provisions to all counties of over one hundred and fifty thousand population.

The House bill regulating the fees of coroners was recommitted.

Mr. Foster's resolution of inquiry into the troubles of the anthracite regions, was referred to the Committee on Mines and Mining.

A resolution was passed authorizing the printing of copies of the new Constitution for the House and judicial and county officers.

Mr. Webb—A bill for the collection of debt from non-resident debtors.

Mr. Thompson—A three hundred dollar exemption act.

Mr. Reynolds—A bill to fix the standard weight of bark.

Mr. McCullough—To limit the responsibility of the citizens of this State under the co-partnership laws of other States.

Mr. Dimmick—Fixing the salaries of the Supreme and District Court Judges of this State.

New Bill on the Liquor Question.

The new Liquor bill was brought here this evening, having been perfected by the Convention of the Liquor League in Reading today. It was handed over to Mr. Wainwright, who submitted it to the Allegheny delegation. The first section repeals all existing Local Option laws; the second places a uniform license fee throughout the State, in three classes—first $50, and the third $200; the fourth section repeals all existing license laws. The bill will probably be brought before the House to-morrow. The Allegheny delegation are all supposed to be in favor of it except Mr. Newmyer, who don't like it. The delegation to Reading were Lidell, Friday, Rush and Grogan.

Special to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, January 23, 1874.

SENATE.

In the Senate a number of bills came to a second reading, among them one providing for the payment of the expense of investigating the Cassville school scandal; also, the costs on appeal from railway suits; also, to validate acts done by corporations not chartered.

Mr. Graham—An act authorizing city and borough superintendents to hold teachers' institutes independent of the control of the county superintendents, was offered in accordance with a resolution sent by the Board of Control of Allegheny City.

Mr. McClure—Fixing January 1st, February 22d, July 4th, December 25th and any election day or day fixed by proclamation of the Governor or President as legal holidays. It provides that paper falling due on those days shall be paid on the succeeding day.

The resolution authorizing the purchase of Purdon's Digest was lost on final passage by 16 nays to 13 yeas.

Mr. Brockway's advertising bill was amended by Mr. Anderson, of Allegheny, to include German papers; by Mr. Waream for the publication at least thirty days before and not more recent than three months preceding the introduction of the bill. Carried.

The appointment of Dr. D. W. Gross, of Harrisburg; Israel Green, of Easton, and I. L. Alter, of Lancaster, was confirmed, as Trustees of the State Lunatic Asylum.

Mr. Davis—A bill repealing the act incorporating the State Agricultural Society.

The Senate adjourned till Tuesday.

HOUSE.

Mr. Orvis reported that the Election bill was amended, but not to effect the original text, and it passed to a second reading.

Colonel R. B. Beath, Surveyor General, and Hon. T. J. Bigham, Commissioner of Statistics, are spoken of as prominent candidates for Secretary of Internal Affairs.

Special to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, Pa., January 26, 1874.

HOUSE.

The House met at three o'clock P. M., when the new Election law came up on second reading.

Mr. Brockway, in regard to the clause permitting courts to throw out the entire votes cast in cases where overseers are driven from the polls, offered an amendment to authorize courts also to throw out any portion of the votes in case they may deem just. Agreed to.

Except as above, the bill was not materially altered from the shape in which it passed the Senate, and passed the second reading, when the House adjourned.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, January 21, 1874.

"The wicked stand on slippery places," says the good book, and it may be added, so does everybody else in this neighborhood, this morning. Last night there was a very considerable leak from above, which froze as it fell, leaving the pavements in a very treacherous condition.

It will be borne in mind by those who read the papers, that toward the close of the last session of the Legislature, Hon. Jared M. Brush, Jno. L. Warden, Esq., and several other worthy gentlemen whose names are not now remembered, succeeded, after a deal of trouble, in getting a bill passed entitled "an act to provide for the better security of life and property from the dangers of coal and petroleum oils." The alarming number of explosions, attended with fearful loss of life, caused by the use of cheap, inferior oils and burning fluids, rendered this legislation necessary. It was hoped the bill went into effect its wholesome operation has materially lessened the number of explosions and consequent destruction. But just as everything was working nicely, under the legislation thus obtained, *in comes the new Constitution*, which provides in section 27, article III., as follows:

"No State office shall be continued or created for the inspection or measuring of any merchandize, manufacture or commodity; but any county or municipality may appoint such officers when authorized by law."

In order, therefore, to save people's lives and property, a general law authorizing the appointment of inspectors by some other power than the Governor's, will have to be passed. A bill re-enacting the law of last year, except that the appointing power is given to the Courts of Common Pleas in the different counties, has been introduced in the House by Mr. McCreary of Venango county, which, if passed, as it probably will be, will settle this business in accordance with the new Constitution. As to the propriety of overloading the courts with "work and prerogative," your correspondent "Special" has already expressed some very sensible views, and his opinions being entitled to great weight, the subscriber does not propose to dwell upon the subject here.

The following bills to-day passed the House on first reading, and in due time will probably go through this branch finally. If, however, it is desired to amend them after passage here, it can be done in the Senate.

An act regulating the salaries and duties of justices of the peace acting as such:

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted, etc.*, That hereafter the fees of any coroner or justice of the peace acting as such, elected or appointed after the passage of this act, shall be as follows:

For every day necessarily spent in the inquiry into the cause of death and circumstances attending the same, three dollars.

Summoning and qualifying an inquest and drawing and returning inquisition, two dollars and fifty cents.

Qualifying each witness, ten cents.

For each mile actually traveled, counting from coroner's office to place of view, and thence to the court house, five cents.

Each service of a subpœna to witness, whether by coroner, justice or constable, ten cents.

For each mile traveled, five cents.

Witness, each day's attendance, one dollar.

For each mile traveled, three cents.

Each juror, per day on inquest, one dollar.

SEC. 2. That the coroner or justice acting as coroner shall, on request of the inquest, call a physician or surgeon who shall make the necessary examination of the body to enable him to testify as to the cause of death, for which service he shall be paid by the county a sum not exceeding ten dollars, unless approved by the county commissioners: *Provided, however*, That if chemical test or surgical operation shall be necessary, he shall be paid such as the Court of Quarter Sessions may order and direct.

SEC. 3. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed.

An act to establish a separate Orphans' Court in and for the county of Allegheny, and to provide for the election of a Judge thereof.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted, etc.*, That in the county of Allegheny a separate Orphans' Court is hereby established, which court, on and after the first Monday of January, Anno Domini 1875, shall have and exercise all the powers and jurisdiction now vested in and which may hereafter be conferred upon the Orphans' Courts of this Commonwealth.

SEC. 2. The said court shall consist of one President Judge, learned in the law, who shall be elected and commissioned in the same manner and for the same term as Judges of the Courts of Common Pleas are now by law elected and commissioned; and shall receive the same salary that the Judges of the Courts of Common Pleas in said county from time to time receive for their services.

SEC. 3. At the next annual election the qualified electors of the county of Allegheny shall elect one Judge of the said Orphans' Court, and the said Judge shall enter upon the discharge of his duties at the organization of said court on the first Monday of January, Anno Domini 1875.

SEC. 4. The Commissioners of said county of Allegheny shall provide proper and suitable apartments in which the business of said Orphans' Court shall be had and conducted.

An Act relative to vacancies in the office of Prothonotary or Clerk of the several Courts, and in the office of Recorder or Recorder.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted, etc.*, That whenever the office of Prothonotary, Clerk of the Court of Quarter Sessions of the Peace, Orphans' Court, Oyer and Terminer and General Jail Delivery, Register of Wills or Recorder of Deeds, shall become vacant by death, resignation or otherwise, it shall be lawful for the principal deputy of such office to discharge the duties imposed by law upon his principal until the appointment and qualification of his successor: *Provided*, That the said deputy, before taking upon himself the duties of said office, shall give a bond similar to that of his principal, to be approved by one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the vacancy may occur.

SEC. 2. That from and after the passage of this act, it shall be the duty of each Prothonotary and other officers mentioned in the first section of this act to appoint one principal deputy to act in the case of the death or resignation of his principal, or when said office shall become vacant from other causes.

The City Republican Convention, to nominate candidates for municipal offices, convened in the Court House, in this city, last evening, and after rather an existing contest, nominated J. D. Patterson, Esq., for Mayor. A gentleman named Grafton Fox, claimed to have sixteen delegates, a majority, instructed or elected for him, but they didn't stay with him.

The fourth quarterly meeting of the Executive Committee of the Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society convened at the rooms of the society in Barr's hall at seven o'clock last evening, President Eby in the chair. After an interesting session, reading of reports, discussions as to the best means of promoting the interests of the society, adjourned until this morning.

The meeting this morning was generally attended.

Rev. Dr. Calder, President of the State Agricultural College, was also present, and made a complimentary and encouraging statement about the prosperous condition of the institution, the curtailment of expenditures during the year—$6,000—the amount of back debt, interest, etc., paid, and the urgent necessity of further legislative recognition, beyond the $10,000 which is appropriated for the use of the faculty.

Among the various questions which were considered by the society were the ravages of sheep-killing dogs, the protection of sheep and sheep owners, and also the owners of dogs, received prominent attention. Many good ideas, pointers and illustrations were given and a large amount of interesting information was elicited.

A resolution was passed, embodying the said facts, and made subject to action by a committee appointed to lay the same before the Legislature.

The election of officers for the ensuing year, was held this afternoon, and resulted in the choice of the following:

President—J. R. Eby.

Vice Presidents—1, James A. M'Crea; 2, George Bilz; 3, Pascal Morris; 4, Wm. S. Bissel; 5, A. D. Levering; 6, David Hibbenson; 7, Wm. H. Holstein; 8, Tobias Barta; 9, S. S. Spencer; 10, Daniel H. Neiman; 11, George Scott; 12, Thos. Tripp; 13, Lyman Nutting; 14, John A. Small; 15, James E. Carmalt; 16, J. B. Potter; 17, Archibald McAllister; 18, John S. Miller; 19, William M. Watts; 20, Jacob Mickey; 21, George Rhey; 22, John Murdoch; 23, Alex. Speer; 24, J. Allison; 25, J. B. Lawson; 26, J. D. Kirkpatrick; 27, John W. Hammond.

Executive Committee—Chairman, Executive Committee—A. Wilhelm, Geo. Bergner, Abner Ruthford, B. G. Peters, Seth Hoagland, Fred. Watts, ex-president; David Taggart, ex-president; Jacob S. Haldeman, ex-president; Thomas P. Knox, ex-president; A. Boyd Hamilton, ex-president; Amos E. Kapp, ex-president; Jos. C. Morris, ex-president.

Corresponding Secretary—Elbridge M'Conkey.

Recording Secretary—D. W. Seller.

Chemist and Geologist—Samuel S. Haldeman.

Assistant Chemist and Geologist—Hugh Hamilton.

Librarian—Wm. H. Egle.

JOHN.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, January 21, 1874.

The session of the Senate on Tuesday night was not a very productive one, but it was exciting and lively to a high degree. Notwithstanding the evidences of the bad results of absenteeism, on Friday last, there were still enough Republican Senators absent to render it impossible to pass any measure by a party vote and with the requisite number (17). Owing to the arrangements of the trains on the Pennsylvania road, it was not found to be possible to be present; Mr. Rutan was called away to Washington; Mr. Yeakle is sick; and Mr. Hopkins was unavoidably detained.

The election law coming up in regular order, there was nothing for it, therefore, but to talk, and prevent a vote if possible. Mr. McClure moved his amendment providing for securing triplicate returns of elections, instead of duplicate ones, and moved to go into committee of the whole to insert that amendment. An active and spirited debate followed. Mr. Lowry, of Erie, Mr. Cooper, of Delaware, and Mr. McKinley, of Lawrence, all made excellent speeches, in which the Philadelphia Senator (Mr. McClure) was vigorously handled, and the debate grew warm, the Democrats, seeing the way the tide was running, pressed a motion to adjourn, which was agreed to.

This morning the attendance was fuller. Messrs. Rutan and Yeakle on one side, and Dill and Playford on the other, being still absent. On the bill again coming up, the point of order was raised, that the bill being on its final passage, it could not, at that stage be amended. The Speaker sustained this point, and ruled that a bill could be amended only on second or third reading. An appeal from the decision was, therefore, ruled out of order; and as the only way out of the difficulty, a motion was made to reconsider the vote by which the bill had passed third reading. This was carried, 15 to 12, Messrs. Cutler, Weakley, Fitch and Strang voting with the Democrats, in order to give a chance for amending the bill. Mr. McClure again offered his amendment, but finally withdrew it to enable Mr. Wallace to offer one, similar in purpose, but framed so as to satisfy the most of the people, and it was adopted—yeas 20, nays 3. One or two other amendments, offered by Mr. Wallace and Mr. McClure, were inserted by unanimous consent, and the bill then passed—yeas 27, nays 1, the negative vote being cast by Mr. Rowland, because the Senate refused to strike out that provision in the bill which requires naturalized voters to produce their certificates of naturalization when registering or offering to vote.

The bill, as it passed, is generally acceptable to both parties, and its passage by a practically unanimous vote, is evidence that it is *not a partisan bill*, in any sense. No greater rebuke could be given than this vote gives to the senseless and malicious gabble over this bill, which is constantly in the Philadelphia *Press* of to-day. A bill that commands the vote of the Senators of all parties, ought to be good enough to satisfy even such an element as that which edits the *Press*.

The only changes made in the bill are, first, an addition to the second section, making it the duty of the assessor to be present at the places where elections are to be held, for not less than five days preceding any election, from nine o'clock A. M. to nine o'clock P. M., for the purpose of correcting the lists, or adding thereto such names as may be lawfully entitled to appear, and striking therefrom fictitious names, or those of the dead, those who have removed, or who otherwise may be disqualified, and second, an amendment requiring triplicate instead of duplicate returns of the election to be made out, which is one to be given to the minority inspector, and this return may be used by the court, if necessary, in correcting the returns made.

The bill has gone to the House in this shape, where it has been promptly referred to the Judiciary Committee, and will be reported back to-morrow in time to take up and act on it. From present appearances, there is not much prospect of the bill being changed to any extent in the House.

The House had up a bill to regulate the fees of Coroners, which went through first reading. The bill may be all right in itself; but as a general fee bill must be passed, it would seem wise not to be passing separate bills on that subject. There is no need to multiply laws.

A batch of twenty or more Notaries Public was confirmed to-day by the Senate, this being one of the new duties imposed by the new Constitution. The Senators do not seem sufficiently thankful for this privilege; but I see Newlin on the ground, to-night, and he can talk them into a better spirit with the great skill he showed in demolishing the Supreme Court.

SPECIAL.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, January 22, 1874.

This has been an exceedingly dull day; the only relief to its dullness being the sublime impudence of the Philadelphia *Press* in claiming the passage of the Election law in the Senate as its triumph! Every one laughs at the silly bluster of this notorious sheet, and wonders how a city capable of getting up a Centennial Celebration of the Declaration of Independence is at the same time capable of sustaining a paper characterized by so much meanness, vulgarity and mendacity as the *Press*.

The Senate was in session only an hour, and exhausted its calendar, within that time, by reading all the bills on it a second time, and the only House bill on it a first time. The only one that excited any discussion was a joint resolution for the purchase of Purdon's Digest for both Houses. On second reading the test vote was 15 to 13; and unless it can rally two more votes, to-morrow, it will fail for want of the constitutional majority.

The House was engaged nearly all day upon a bill to provide for the election of Judges of Orphans' Courts in counties with over 150,000 inhabitants. The bill, originally, provided only for the election of such a judge in Allegheny county; but the House, on motion of Mr. Webb, struck out the original bill and inserted a new one, extending to all the counties having the requisite population, which are Philadelphia, Luzerne and Allegheny.

As so amended, the bill provides for one Orphans' Court Judge in each of those counties; but the Philadelphians, at this point of the discussion, discovered that the Orphans' Court business of that city was too heavy to be done by one judge. The Constitution imposes upon this court the duty of auditing all accounts of executors and administrators, free of cost, and this branch of the business is said to be so heavy in Philadelphia that one judge cannot possibly attend to it. Various propositions were made to make the number of judges three, and five, and even more; and, finally, it was considered best to stop short further action upon the bill until the Philadelphia members could ascertain the real wants of the city in the matter.

The bill relative to the fees of coroners was referred by the House to the Committee on Constitutional Reform, and a bill relative to vacancies in the offices of prothonotary, clerk, register and recorder, passed third reading. Several bills were introduced, among them one to repeal the Local Option law, which was read in place by Mr. Pyle. There is, I learn, a strong purpose to press the passage of this bill, when it comes up.

Among the bills which passed second reading in the Senate to-day, was one to provide for paying claims for advertising the new Constitution. It authorizes the Secretary of the Commonwealth to fix what he considers an equitable compensation for publishing the Constitution in the various daily and weekly papers of the State, and when the rate is so fixed, the Auditor General is directed to draw his warrants for the same.

House bill No. 1, to regulate the publication of notices of the proposed introduction of local or private bills, was reported in Senate and passed first reading. As it passed the House it required such notices to be published thirty days in the county where the proposed local or private bills may be designed to operate, in "two papers of different politics." The Senate Judiciary Committee struck out this reprehensible provision, and confined the publication to *one* paper in the proper county. I say "reprehensible," because the recognition of "different political parties" in the act would be unconstitutional, while it is not for the Legislature to say in what particular papers men shall advertise; and the constitutional requirement that publication of application for such legislation shall be made is sufficiently complied with in providing for publication in one paper. The idea that such publication should be made in papers of both political parties is the original sin of this hundred folly, minority representation and cumulative voting.

The following is the Orphans' Court bill, as it passed second reading in the House to-day:

SECTION 1. That the several counties within this Commonwealth wherein the population shall exceed 150,000, a separate Orphans' Court is hereby established, which, from and after the first of said counties on and after the first Monday in January, 1875, shall have and exercise all the powers and jurisdiction now vested in and which may hereafter be conferred upon the Orphans' Courts of this Commonwealth.

SEC. 2. That the said courts in each of said counties shall consist of one president judge, learned in the law, who shall be elected and commissioned in the same manner, and for the same term as judges of the Courts of Common Pleas are now by law elected and commissioned, and shall receive the same salary that the judges of the Courts of Common Pleas are now by law entitled to receive for their services.

SEC. 3. At the next annual election the qualified electors of the several counties aforesaid shall elect one Judge of the said Orphans' Court, and the said Judge shall enter upon the discharge of his duties at the organization of said court on the first Monday of January, A. D. 1875.

SEC. 4. The Commissioners of the several counties aforesaid shall provide proper and suitable apartments in which the business of said Orphans' Court shall be had and conducted.

SPECIAL.

Special Correspondence to the Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, January 24, 1874.

Your telegraphic reporter had no sufficient authority for saying that all the members of the House from Allegheny county would vote for a repeal of the Local Option law, except Newmyer. I know that I have as good a knowledge of how they are going to vote on that subject as your reporter, and I would not undertake to say how any of them are going to vote. If I ventured a guess on the subject, it would be that more than one of them would vote against it.

The *Legal Journal* of your city, followed by one of the daily papers, comments unfavorably on Newmyer's bill relative to the creation of separate Orphans' Courts. They object to that bill that it provides for the immediate abolition of such separate courts, while the Constitution provides that they shall not go into operation until 1875. Mr. Newmyer's bill, on the contrary, distinctly provided that the court created by it should go into operation only in 1875, and although it originally applied exclusively to Allegheny county it was amended in the House by including all counties with over 150,000 inhabitants without naming them. As there are but three of these counties, Allegheny, Luzerne and Philadelphia, it has been usual, when speaking of this bill, to speak of it as a bill to provide Orphans' Courts for those counties; but the bill itself names no counties, specifically. If the editors of the papers referred to would be condescend to *read* the bills they undertake to comment upon, it would probably be more edifying to those who read their editorials up on them.

The Senate yesterday voted down the joint resolution to purchase Purdon's Digest for the use of the members of both Houses. It was remarkable that all amendments offered to this resolution, to limit the number purchased to the *new* members, to five copies for each House, etc., were likewise voted down. The Senators are determined to have the Book for *all or none*. The vote will probably be reconsidered when the Senate meets again on Tuesday.

The Senate yesterday passed finally two bills, one to pay for advertising the new Constitution, and the other to provide for advertising for contracts to supply fuel, stationery, etc, for the two Houses and the judicial departments. The bill from the House, to regulate the advertising of notices of application for special legislation, was amended in committee so as to require publication of such notices in *two* papers instead of one, and in one German paper besides, and was then laid aside for third reading.

The House spent the whole day, yesterday, on the Election bill, which went through on first reading, and it is to-day going through it on second reading, but it had not concluded the reading when it adjourned to Monday. The bill has been re-arranged as to sections, and amended variously, but its general purport is not essentially changed. It will probably pass the House finally on Tuesday, and it will then go to a committee of conference, where its details will finally be arranged. It is safe to say that within a week from now the bill, in some shape, will be a law.

SPECIAL.

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.

Arrival of the Mails—The Coasting Trade—Harvest Prospects—Demand for Labor—South Sea Trade—Disturbance at the Fejee Islands.

SAN FRANCISCO, January 26.—The steamer MacGregor brings Australian mail dates to December 29, and from Honolulu to January 14. In Auckland the Local Steam Packet Company, with a steam service to Feejee, will procure additional steamers to supply their increasing coasting trade. A steamer is also about to be placed regularly in the passage between Auckland and Poverty Bay, and the Napire, another steamer, purchased in London for a private owner in Auckland, is on her way out to engage in the coast trade. Continued native disturbances are reported on the east coast. International cricket and rifle matches are now the main excitement in Otago. There were seventy miles of railroad open on the 1st; part of the Auckland and Wakato line, reaching to Oahunga, was to be opened on the 24th. The Maori King and his son are paying princely visits to the districts. Harvest promises to be abundant. In the other colonies the wheat crop will show a falling off. There is a great demand for labor in various parts of the colony. The trade with the Islands of Feejee and other groups of the South Sea is increasing. The sugar trade is to receive an impetus by the establishment of sugar refineries. The Union Steam Shipping Company, with a capital of $250,000, was started in Dunedin, to meet the growing requirements of the shipping trade of New Zealand. The New Zealand Navigation Company will engage its capital, and in order to provide an additional steamer to Feejee. The feeling is growing stronger for annexation.

The action of the German residents in Levuka on the recent occasion of preparing to resist the government by force of arms, and after the proceedings at Nasuva, when about 100 unarmed white men were driven back and ill-used by 1,200 Feejeans armed to the teeth, has elicited a general feeling in the colonies that England should at once assume the sovereignty of these Islands. It is announced by the ministry that one of Her Majesty's ministers will proceed under instructions via Honolulu to Washington, and most likely on to Europe, for the purpose of pressing upon the great powers the claims of this kingdom to the fullest recognition. An intertribal dispute has arisen between the natives of Tonawa and the Damarau people, resulting in a collision in which lives were lost. This is an old dispute of years' standing. The health of King Lotoniliio, of the Sandwich Islands, is reported much improved. The approaching elections create much interest. Mr. Wideman has tendered his resignation as one of the Justices of Supreme Court. An alliance for the King is generally talked of.

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 22, 1874.

Opinions on the Reduction of Taxation.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue, before the Committee on Ways and Means today, stated that any reduction of taxes at the present time would be detrimental to the public service. He opposes any reduction of the tax on whisky or tobacco. The committee also considered the proposition of a number of distillers to reduce the tax on whisky in transit from twenty-five to ten cents per barrel. Tobacco pays but ten cents per package, and they think that whisky should be the same. They also asked a repeal of the law requiring them to refund the amount of any stamps broken in transit. The Commissioner opposed both.

Strength of the Army.

General Pope informed the House Committee on Military Affairs, to-day, that a very large force will, in the future, be required on the frontiers, and he therefore thinks, for the peace of the country and the security of the frontiers, the numerical strength of the army should not be cut down.

Department of Agriculture.

The House Committee on Agriculture to-day decided to oppose any attempt to reduce the force in the Department of Agriculture, and will vote for an increase. They heard a statement from Grangers, respecting the disparity between the price of a bushel of wheat and a barrel of flour, but could give no answer, except that the settlement of the transportation question would regulate that.

The Civil Service.

In the Committee on the Reform of the Civil Service, to-day, General Butler introduced a resolution calling for a careful investigation of the present civil service. There is every probability that the existing system will be abolished and a more practicable one supplied in its place, based probably on the bill of Mr. Smart, of New York. The committee favor the addition of custom house employees and fill postmasters.

The Financial Question.

Senator Boutwell's financial speech to-day was a paradox. In one breath he opposed inflation and favored the issue of the forty-four million reserves, and in the next opposed contraction and favored withdrawing the reserves. Senators have been anxiously awaiting the effect of the extension of the Treasury. Pending his remarks to-day Senators plied so many questions to him that he fell into quite a muddle. Senators consentingly adjourned to-night pronounced it a disappointment.

Captain John E. Michner.

charged with the abstraction of money from letters in the Dead Letter Office, having been acquitted by the Grand Jury, will prosecute the parties who originated the attack. It is understood that the Postmaster General has declined to reinstate him.

Expenses of the National Loan.

The Secretary of the Treasury and the Chief of the Warrant Division were before the House Committee on Appropriations on the pertunent indefinite appropriation for the expenses of the national loan. This provides one per cent. of the amount of legal tender notes, fractional currency and other securities issued during each fiscal year to meet the expenses of the issue, reissue, transfer, redemption and destruction of the same. This fund amounts to three millions, and there is no law requiring a statement of how it is expended. The committee have attempted to get in the way of many abuses. They will require a statement of the use to which it was applied in the past, and will introduce a bill making it a specific appropriation in future.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 23, 1874.

The Defence of Pittsburgh During the War.

A petition of loyal citizens of the United States, residing in the city of Pittsburgh, presented to the Senate, states that when the rebel army, under Lee, entered Pennsylvania in 1863, Pittsburgh was entirely without defenses. The indications were that Pittsburgh was to be one of the points of the invasion. Under these circumstances E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War, entered into correspondence with the petitioners and arranged with them to fortify the city, stating that he had no troops to spare to erect the works, but that the citizens would be reimbursed if they would execute the work. Officers were sent and the works erected, and vouchers made out for the laborers furnished by citizens. The vouchers, after the suspension of the late Major General W. H. T. Brooks, None of the vouchers have been paid. They are held by the original owners, but have been merely transferred for the purpose of collection. The price charged for labor was $1 25 per day. In some instances the citizens also supplied provisions, but in no charge will be made, nor is interest charged. The petition is signed by G. H. Thurston, attorney for the petitioners, and is in charge of Gen. Brooks to represent Mr. Thurston. The vouchers, which number one hundred and sixty, represent an aggregate of $75,963. They are indorsed by the order of Thurston for collection. The following is a list of those claiming the largest amounts: F. Bausman, $5,000; Brown & Co., $2,727; Bissell & Co., $362; Bryce, Richards & Co., $1,000; Gazzam, Gardner & Co., $493; A. & D. H. Chambers, $1,263; Chess, Smythe & Co., $4,760; Everson, Preston & Co., $925; Fahnestock, Albree & Co., $750; Grant, Truett & Co. (two), $4,315; Graff & Co., $380; Gamble, Stack & Co., $705; Hailman, Rahm & Co., $2,200; Hussey, Wells & Co., $1,000; Jones & Laughlins, $5,962; Jones, Boyd & Co., $1,000; Kloman & Co., $462; Lloyd & Black, $1,823; Lippincott & Co., $880; Lyons, Shorb & Co., $1,861; Dalzell & Co., $1,033; Livingston, Copeland & Co., $1,046; James Nullinger (two), $1,471; McCully, W. & Co., $1,680; McKee & Bro., $768; McLaughlin & Co., $1,000; Newmeyer & Co., $570; Newmeyer Graff & Co., $531; Phillips & Best, $587; Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad Company, $6,068; Robinson, Minnis & Co., $1,000; Shoenberger & Co., $1,326; Shoenberger & Co., $2,585; Spang, Chalfant & Co., $1,726; Singer, Nimick & Co., $1,299; James Wood & Co., $3,092; Jos. Woods & Co., $1,000. These vouchers have already been presented to the War Department for payment and refused, as there was no appropriation. Payment has been made to Gilchrist, Lawrence & Co., Cincinnati, O., and Covington, Ky., for money expended under similar circumstances, and there can be no reason why the citizens of Pittsburgh should be refused in the same manner. The petition has been referred to the Committee on Claims, of which Senator Scott is chairman.

Case of Gen. Howard.

The House Military Committee, by their resolution to-day, indicated their desire to pursue the investigation of Gen. Howard's affairs as the head of the Freedman's Bureau. Gen. Howard was examined by a House committee seven years ago, and a voluminous report of an alleged unconstitutional character was made exonerating him. Gen. Howard exhibits some anxiety, preferring, after his experience, a Congressional examination to a military court, which has been recommended.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 25, 1874.

General Van Buren Again.

The Senate Committee on Commerce have received with some surprise the nomination of General Van Buren, who followed American Commissioner to the Vienna Exposition, to be Consul at Kana-Gowa, Japan. The consideration of this nomination will, from present indications, lead to an inquiry into the circumstances of the national disgrace at Vienna last summer. The committee will probably find that if Van Buren was guilty of the charges—and it would so seem from his removal—then he should not be sent abroad as consul; and if not guilty, then the Secretary of State should explain his action and that of Mr. Jay, the Minister to Vienna. In the opinion of the committee the nomination of Van Buren is an admission of the mistake of the Secretary of State.

Eagle Versus Crow.

The monotony of Buncombe oratory let off on Saturday was diversified yesterday by Rollins, of North Carolina, and Cain, colored member from South Carolina. The former went on to prove that the negro was an inferior race, and observed that the eagle over the Speaker's chair ought to be removed and a crow put in its place. Cain went for the enthusiastic Rollins, remarking that it would better suit the Southern Democrats who are always "crowing." Cain was favorably applauded by the negroes in the galleries.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 26, 1874.

THE PRESIDENT AND ELECTION DISPUTES.

Numerous paragraphs have recently appeared in newspapers stating what the President would or would not do in relation to Louisiana and other public matters now attracting general attention, and the President is sometimes represented as having expressed views which he certainly does not entertain and which would be contrary to the course he has heretofore pursued. Reports prevail that the President has differences with political friends, and is disposed to act altogether independent of them, but it is known from those having intimate relations with him that the reports are unfounded; nor is it probable that any differences are likely to exist except such as may be inseparable from the views the President may himself take of his constitutional duties, and the official responsibility which attaches to his office. Acting in accordance with the constitutional requirements that the President shall from time to time give Congress information of the state of the Union, he is now engaged in the preparation of a message which he will submit to the Cabinet before transmitting it to Congress. This message will, according to present understanding, be confined to a plain but elaborate statement of facts attending federal proceedings in Louisiana in support of the United States judicial decisions which he had no authority to disregard, whatever may have been his own opinions upon the political questions offered by them. It is positively known that the President has not interfered in any way with the Louisiana question relating to seats either in the Senate or House of Representatives. To Louisianians of both parties who have called upon him, he has repeatedly said that such questions properly belong to Congress, the Constitution making each House judge of the election returns and qualifications of its own members, and that the consideration of such questions involves the subject of legal authority under which the certificates of election issue. So the one question necessarily affects the other, and both could at the same time be determined. This, in substance, is the reply he has unreservedly given to those who have interrogated him on the subject of the bill proposed to be passed by Congress, ordering a new election in Louisiana. He has discouraged such legislation, and while thus opposing Congressional interference, he has no hesitation in saying to visitors, as he repeated yesterday, that there was no doubt that the late election in Louisiana was an organized fraud from beginning to end, for the benefit of those now in possession of the government of that State, and that there has never yet been a fair count of the votes, the results having been reached by dishonest means too well known to be repeated. It is therefore not probable that he will in his forthcoming special message make any recommendation for a new election, this opinion, as recently privately expressed, being that Congress has no more right to order a new election in Louisiana than it has in any other State because of a local conflict, all States now being equal in the Union—and are as much entitled to the same general protection from illegal or unconstitutional interference by any branch of the federal government as they are against invasion or domestic violence; and besides, there are means to settle the Louisiana and all kindred cases without resort to Congressional acts ordering a new election.

THE CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION.

The following Executive order has been issued relative to the above Exposition:

Whereas, It has been brought to the notice of the President of the United States that in the international exhibition of arts, manufactures and products of the soil and mine, to be held in the City of Philadelphia in the year 1876, for the purpose of celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of the Independence of the United States, it is desirable that from the Executive departments of the government of the United States, in which articles and materials suitable for the purpose intended, there should appear such articles and materials as will, when presented in collective exhibition, illustrate the functions and administrative faculties of government in time of peace and its resources as a war power, and thereby serve to demonstrate the nature of our institutions and their adaptation to the wants of our people; now for the purpose of securing a complete and harmonious arrangement of articles and materials designed to be exhibited from the Executive Department of the government, it is ordered that a Board, to be composed of one person to be named by the head of each of the Executive Departments, which Board shall prepare such materials to be exhibited, and also of one person to be named in behalf of the Smithsonian Institution, and one to be named in behalf of the Department of Agriculture, which Board shall be charged with the preparation, arrangement and safe keeping of such articles and materials as the heads of the several departments and the Smithsonian Institution shall respectively decide shall be embraced in the collection; that one of the persons thus named by the Executive shall be a civilian, who shall be Chairman of such Board, and that the Board appoint from their number such other officers as they may think necessary, and that the said Board, when organized, shall be authorized, under the direction of the President, to confer with the executive officers of the Centennial Exhibition in relation to such matters connected with the subject as may pertain to the respective departments having articles and materials on exhibition, and that the names of persons thus selected by the heads of the several departments, the Commissioner of Agriculture and the Directors of the Smithsonian Institution shall be submitted to the President for his decision.

By order of the President.

(Signed) HAMILTON FISH,
Secretary of State.

THE COAL MINERS.

The Strike in the Schuylkill Region at an End—Men Will Resume Work—The Arrangement to be Perfected To-day.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

PHILADELPHIA, January 22, 1874.

Your correspondent has the following important dispatch from the best informed man in the Schuylkill region, received late this evening from Pottsville:

"The strike is over. The miners have agreed to accept the proposition of the operators, made through Franklin B. Gowen, President of the Reading Railroad Company and the Reading Coal and Iron Company, on the 8th inst. They will resume work on the 23 as the minimum basis of wages. The miners make this concession to the capitalists because they are assured by the latter that coal will not fall below that figure, and consequently the men will earn the old wages, which was all they demanded. Mr. Gowen is coming up himself to-morrow to attend the meeting of the Committee of Conference. At that meeting, at which the arrangement will be perfected and the contract of agreement between the two parties sealed.

This information is based on the highest authority, both from the men and the operators. The secret has been jealously guarded and not even the *Standard* or the *Journal* will contain the announcement to-day. All may be assured also that the men in the Wyoming region will go to work in about ten days at the old prices, for notwithstanding the secession reports from that region, there has been no strike there what ever, but the men have not worked, simply because there has been no demand for the coal, as indeed is generally the case at this season of the year. The cessation of work has been taken advantage of by the officers of the Miners' National Union to arrive at an interest in that organization and establish branches and obtain new members. This last information is obtained from B. F. Johnson, editor of the Workingman's Journal, of the union. The story which has been going the rounds of the papers for a day or two to the effect that President Gowen, at the suggestion of the English stockholders of the company, will soon begin the importation of miners from Sweden to take the place

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 1874.

THERE is said to be an immense amount of money in New York awaiting investment, call loans being obtainable at six per cent. What is now wanted is to have these idle funds put into use so as to afford employment to the masses, which is at present the great need of that community. It is this renewed facility in call loans which has started stock speculation afresh.

SOME of the shrewdest political observers in the country consider that the Bourbon reactionists of the South are making a concerted effort to regain their lost power, and it is prophesied that it will not be long before plenty of Northern doughfaces will again be found holding for their favor. The first step seems to be a general movement looking to the remodeling of the Constitutions of the various Southern States, for which all the Democratic papers of that section are loudly clamoring.

ACCORDING to the figures furnished to the Senate by the Attorney General, the average costs paid in bankruptcy cases foot up $819 10. The Register in Bankruptcy gets $301 68 of this sum, and the rest is divided between the assignee, the marshal and the clerk. In view of these figures, it is not to be wondered at that there was a clamor for the repeal of the bankrupt law. These fees would bear a reduction of three-fourths very well, and if the law is not repealed altogether, the fees should undoubtedly be cut down heavily.

THE lower branch of Congress has done a wise and serviceable thing in passing a bill directing the restoration to the public domain of the lands withdrawn for the Placerville and Sacramento Valley Railroad, and declaring the grant of land forfeited. The event, it is said, created considerable comment, as being the first evidence of the intention of Congress to compel companies to fulfill their co.tracts or forfeit their lands. The bill has been introduced in the Senate just as it passed the House, and should be indorsed by that body without delay. It is time these corporations were held to the fulfillment of their bonds.

THERE is trouble brewing among the Western Grangers. One of the subordinate Granges of Iowa has formally given notice to the State and National Grange that it will no longer submit to their impertinence and dictation, and stating that their organization is characterized by an assumption of power whose features are obnoxious and intolerably offensive. That is speaking straight, and there is probably a good deal of ground for saying it. There is evidently a spirit of rebellion at work against the maneuverings of side-walk farmers who have wormed their way into the order, and the end is not likely to be yet.

THE course of the New York *Graphic* with regard to the Centennial celebration, presents a very creditable contrast to that of the New York papers generally. That journal forcibly observes:

"There ought to be no delay in the action of Congress. It would be a disgraceful thing if, from a niggardly spirit of economy, an enterprise in which every American should feel a personal pride should be allowed to fail. The committee has left nothing undone to avoid the necessity of an appeal to Congress. The Pennsylvanians themselves have done all and more than any one Commonwealth could be expected to do."

A CASE which involves a principle of great public importance is now under consideration by the Supreme Court of the United States—embracing the question of the constitutionality of the Excise laws of Iowa, and largely affecting similar laws in every State in the Union. The position of the plaintiff in error is, that under the recent amendments to the Constitution he cannot, as a citizen of the United States, be deprived of his property in liquor by the Legislature of the State. His title, it is maintained, is a right secured to him by the federal power, and not to be divested by any other authority. The opinion of the court is looked for with unusual public interest.

THE representative press is almost unanimously opposed to the pending proposition in Congress to place the great railroad interests of the country under the control of the general government. The New York *Bulletin* prints a long array of extracts from the leading journals of the country, selected at random from papers of all shades of politics, as well as the different sections of the Union, and whose views may therefore be accepted as altogether uninfluenced by any power consideration of party or locality. They are nearly all in the same vein: indeed, nowhere is there manifested a disposition to support the measure, except in some portions of the Northwest. It is to be honed Congress may have the prudence to heed these unmistakable expressions of popular sentiment.

THE latest proposed financial innovation is the establishment of an Assorting House in New York, either by one or more of the now existing banks, or a new bank by combination of existing banks willing to place their capital in a combination to redeem all national bank notes of existing national banks, and return same to banks. When money is easy in summer and the notes flow to New York, they would be sent back to the country, and country banks, it is urged, would not discount their last dollar, as now, but would expect and prepare for their notes to be returned, so that when the money was wanted in the fall for crop movements, each bank throughout the country would have a reserve to draw on first before disturbing balances held at the money centers for reserve.

THE Philadelphia *North American* publishes a detailed statement of the foreign imports of that city during the year just closed, from which it appears that the total value of such importations was $29,186,925, as against $26,304,051 in 1872, and $20,820,374 in 1871. The importations were mostly direct, the aggregate being of the direct trade $26,820,826, and of the indirect trade $2,366,029. Of the former $11,396,694 was in American vessels, and $15,424,264 in foreign. The duties received at the custom house during the year amounted to $8,626,670 20, and of 1873 to $7,697,237 76, a decrease accounted for by the extension of the free list and the ten per cent. reduction in the tariff on dutiable goods. Except for the panic the imports would unquestionably have been considerably larger; nevertheless the statistics show the trade of Philadelphia to be steadily increasing.

ONE would naturally have thought that the complete failure of the recent strike of Railroad engineers, would have taught the members of the "Brotherhood" a wholesome lesson concerning the folly of resort to such modes of obtaining what they term "their rights." It is affirmed, however, that an international Convention of the "Brotherhood" has been ordered to meet at Cleveland on the 25th of February, at which time the impeachment of Chief Engineer WILSON will be consummated, and a man put in his place who will order a strike on all the roads in the United States, unless the officers of the Pan Handle make proper concessions to the striking engineers. They justify a strike on the other roads on the ground that they all sympathized with the Pan Handle, and furnished them engineers, which prevented a compromise with the companies. They claim that a certain Chicago paper will espouse their cause, and that an organ will give them the moral aid they need. It is to be hoped, however, that wiser counsels may yet prevail.

PROTESTANT SYMPATHY.

Although we do not know what was said or done at the meeting of Protestants held in St. James's Hall, London, on Monday evening, we may safely regard the meeting as "important," the epithet applied to it in the cable dispatch. Though Mr. NEWDEGATE was one of the speakers, and he, of course, would indulge in his familiar strain of unimpressive invective and lamentation, the meeting doubtless served to express in terms of suitable vigor and sufficient clearness the great Protestant sentiment of England respecting the conflict in Germany between the empire and the Papacy. This seems to have been the object of the meeting, and there is good reason to believe that both the speeches made and the resolutions passed received point and emphasis from memory of the apparent success with which Romanism has for some years labored to recover its ancient footing in the now heretical but once faithful island. In spite of this apparent success, the English people are still thoroughly Protestant, and their manifest reluctance to interfere directly with the illegal arts and agencies employed to seduce them from their chosen religious faith and forms, shows chiefly that they are Protestants in practical toleration as well as in religious doctrine. When in 1850 the present Pope created a Romish hierarchy in England, making Cardinal WISEMAN Lord Archbishop of Westminster and Dr. ULLATHORNE Bishop of Birmingham, the indignation of the English people rose to such a pitch as to demand legislation for the rebuke of Papal arrogance. The result was the famous Ecclesiastical Titles bill, 14 and 15 Victoria, c. 60, passed in August, 1851, which "prohibited the constitution of bishops of pretended provinces, under a penalty of £100." This law, we need hardly say, has never been enforced; there have been ever since a Lord Archbishop of Westminster (at present Dr. MANNING), and a Bishop of Birmingham. Neither the Papal dignitaries referred to nor any other members of the hierarchy have ever allowed the illegality of their position to affect their activity in the labor of making proselytes. One of them, Dr. MANNING, has always been especially industrious and bitter in denouncing the German government for its church policy and in endeavoring to excite English public opinion against the Protestant cause in Germany. While his position and reputation have made him peculiarly prominent in this crusade, his subordinates of all ranks have been equally laborious and more unscrupulous in the same direction. In Ireland, also, Cardinal Archbishop CULLEN has from the first, in pastoral letters and in speeches, reviled the German empire as being founded in religious schism, Freemasonry, atheism and despotism, and as therefore destined soon to perish under the Almighty's wrath and curse. Those who know somewhat of the tone and character of Popish polemical writings and speeches need not be reminded that in all these productions gross mis-statements and palpable falsehoods are freely used to disparage and render odious the motives and methods of those German statesmen who resist the pretensions of the church.

It is, therefore, rather remarkable that English Protestants have not before now taken some decisive steps, if not "to express their sympathy for the German government," at least to indicate their disapprobation of the Ultramontane crusade waged against it by their Papist fellow-subjects. It goes without saying that in the clerical journals of the continent the comparative silence of British Protestants has been interpreted as abhorrence of the Bismarck policy, and as full acceptance by them of the account of the policy which it suits Papists to give. They call it persecution, mere, downright, unmitigated persecution for conscience sake, and it is easy to give a certain color of probability to the representation by a skillful putting forth of one set of facts while suppressing the facts necessary to their explanation. But not only in Great Britain, but everywhere else, even the least inquisitive Protestants are at length pretty well satisfied that, whatever may be thought of the German policy, it was not adopted in the spirit of a persecutor or oppressor, but was the direct and proper result of the arrogance and extravagant pretensions of a single order of Romish priests, whose great purpose is, and always has been, to establish a universal spiritual empire, to which all secular powers must submit under penalty of destruction. It is idle to say that the dispute might have been avoided by the adoption of American or English policy towards the Papal church. Such remark implies ignorance of the entire conditions which encompass the question, which has been defined and fixed by many long centuries of history. A Protestant power having taken in Germany the controlling imperial position for ages held by a Catholic power, the question could not but arise in connection with the church ruled by Jesuits. Necessarily, in a moral sense, the Papal church, failing to control the present German empire in her own interest, will do her best to disintegrate or destroy the empire. And Protestants must have a very singular blindness or equally singular apathy, who find any difficulty in discovering to which side their sympathies should tend.

Protestants have no right to remain either neutral or indifferent to the struggle. Papists manifestly rely greatly on the public opinion of the nations as a means of victory, and they are everywhere doing their best to enlist the opinion of the world in favor of the German Catholics as objects of persecution. If really persecuted they are entitled to sympathy, as the persecutors merit condemnation. It is, however, very simple in any one to accept the sincere cry

The Pittsburgh Commercial: Saturday, January 31, 1874.

THE CITY DEMOCRACY.

A Straight Ticket Nominated.

Hon. John B. Guthrie, for Mayor--F. L. Ihmsen, Esq., for Treasurer--Mr. John A. Elder for Controller.

The delegates chosen by the Democrats, at their primary meetings on Saturday last, met in convention Tuesday, in the Quarter Sessions Court room, for the purpose of taking such action as might be deemed necessary in regard to nominating candidates for Mayor, Controller and Treasurer.

Christopher Magee, Esq., Chairman of the City Executive Committee, called the convention to order and read the call.

Messrs. John C. Barr, John Gildea, Frank Laughran and J. B. Epping were chosen temporary Secretaries.

The credentials were then called for, when it appeared that all the districts were represented except three or four.

Messrs. J. K. P. Duff and B. C. Sawyer were then named for permanent chairman of the convention; but Mr. Sawyer declined, and Mr. Duff was chosen by acclamation.

Mr. Magee, in retiring from the chairmanship of the committee, thanked the convention, and through them the Democracy, for the kindness shown him, and the generous support which he had received at their hands.

Mr. Duff, on taking the chair, thanked the convention for the honor conferred upon him, and announced the convention ready for business.

A MOTION TO ADJOURN FOR ONE WEEK.

Mr. Heisel arose and moved that the convention to now adjourn until Tuesday, February 10.

A delegate moved to amend by inserting Wednesday, 11th of February.

Mr. Feld wanted to know the reason for adjourning. It looked to him as if the Democracy were afraid of the Republican party and desired to defer making nominations until after their opponent had named their candidates. He was in favor of nominating here and now.

Mr. O'Leary was opposed to adjourning. They might as well throw up their party organization as to adjourn over until within six weeks of election.

Mr. Sawyer moved to amend that the convention do now proceed to nominate candidates for Mayor, Controller and Treasurer.

Mr. M. stated that the question was, whether the Legislature would pass an election law. The law passed, then there would be nothing in the way of an election. It would be proper, in his opinion, to nominate now, and if there was no election law the ticket could be withdrawn.

A delegate raised the point that the convention could not nominate at all. It was only called to consider the propriety of nominating.

Mr. O'Donnell was in favor of nominating a ticket now. There was nothing to be gained by putting it off for a week.

Mr. Heisel thought it would require a week's time to search out material for a strong ticket.

Mr. O'Leary said he had no one to candidate who was "a tower of strength" in the party.

The motion to proceed to nomination was put and carried.

THE NOMINATIONS.

The suggestion of names being in order, the following were submitted:

For Mayor--John B. Guthrie, Fred. L. Ihmsen, S. F. Patterson and Robert Liddell.

For Treasurer--Henry A. Freyvogle, L. P. Hirsch, James H. Hopkins and Geter C. Shidle.

For Controller--John A. Elder. As there was no opposition to Mr. Elder, he was nominated by acclamation.

THE NAMES OF MEN WANTED.

Mr. Magee then offered the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That in the selection of candidates for office it is due to the community at large, and the Democracy whom we more particularly represent, that men of unquestioned honorable integrity and capacity should be presented to the people for their suffrages, so that in their support of the men, the honest masses, in defiance of party ties, may have the opportunity to rebuke the corruption, defalcations and mismanagement exhibited in their public servants.

CHANGES MADE.

Mr. Ihmsen declined to run for Mayor, and his name was placed on the list for Treasurer.

Mr. James H. Hopkins and Mr. Geter C. Shidle were withdrawn as candidates for Treasurer, and Robert Liddell was withdrawn as a candidate for Mayor.

THE BALLOT.

A ballot was then had for Mayor and resulted as follows:

Guthrie.....48 | Patterson.....42
Liddell.....1 |

The chair then announced Mr. Guthrie's nomination, and the applause which followed was of the tame and subdued quality.

The nomination of treasurer being next in order, Mr. Heisel withdrew the name of Mr. Freyvogle, as it was desired to take the nominee from the South Side.

Mr. O'Leary then withdrew the name of Mr. Hitchcock.

This left Mr. Ihmsen without opposition and he was unanimously nominated.

WARD OFFICES.

Mr. O'Leary offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the Democracy of the several wards of this city be requested to make nominations for Council and all other ward officers, when the regular terms of office thereof expire prior to the 3rd Tuesday of February, 1875.

THE MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION.

Mr. English offered the following resolution, which was agreed to:

Resolved, That Mayor Blackmore be requested to issue a proclamation for the election of city and ward officers, to be held on the third Tuesday of February, 1874.

The chairman was authorized to appoint a City Executive Committee of two from each ward, to serve for the ensuing term.

Committees were also appointed to notify the several candidates of their election, after which the convention adjourned.

LIST OF PATENTS.

Issued from the United States Patent Office to the Citizens of the States of Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Following is the list of patents issued from the United States Patent office to citizens of the States of Pennsylvania and Ohio, for the week ending January 22, 1874, and furnished for the COMMERCIAL from the office of J. McC. Perkins & Co., counsellors at law and solicitors for American and foreign patents, Washington, D. C.:

PENNSYLVANIA.

Alterable Sign--Louis Nielander, Pittsburgh, Application filed December 3, 1873.

Gig saddle Attachment--Algernon Gilliam, Pittsburgh. Application filed December 3, 1873.

Trace Fastener--William Rombaugh and James C. Mears, Olivet. Application filed June 28, 1873.

Flue Cleaner--Hiram Freeman, Petroleum Centre. Application filed June 28, 1873.

Paper-Lining Machine--Benjamin F. Field, Lebanon. Application filed May 14, 1873.

Car Coupline--Xaver Krapf, Allentown, assignor to William Balliet and Sabina Krapf. Application filed December 9, 1873.

Spindle Step--Samuel H. Banks, Bridesburg. Application filed September 12, 1873.

Winged Plow--Isaac A. Benedict, West Springfield. Application filed October 4, 1873.

Apparatus for Discharging Gas from Cargoes of Coal--John Foreman, Pottstown. Application filed November 7, 1873.

Brush for Applying Blacking to Stoves--Charles A. Inglis and George W. Pinkerton, Lancaster. Application filed November 24, 1873.

Grinding Machine--William J. Reagan, Dover. Ord, assignor to Royer's Ford Iron Foundry, same place. Application filed October 28, 1873.

Potato Digger--Richard B. Evans, Connellsville. Application filed July 26, 1873.

OHIO.

Fruit Gatherer--W. F. Towns, Ravenna.

Plane Guide--W. S. Shipe, Minerva.

Bed Bottom--J. J. Deal and S. Hobbs, Willmot.

Sash Pully--M. Nelson, Eaton.

Top for Carriages--J. Catrow, Springfield.

Sash Fastener--J. G. Spathelf, Sandusky.

Wheel Harrow--E. Bagley, Massillon.

Alloy for Dental Plates--E. Conway, Dayton.

Lock for Drawers, &c.--J. Palmer, Cincinnati.

Machine for Thrashing and Hulling Clover--D. Lippy, Mansfield.

Sewing Machine Caster--J. H. Stansbury.

Photographic Background--P. C. Nason, Columbus.

Lifting Jack--E. B. Ump, Columbus.

Screw Cutting Machine--L. W. Stockwell, Ravenna.

THE CANAL EXTENSION.

Report of the Engineers.

The report of the engineers who surveyed the proposed routes for the Trans-Allegheny canal--the extension of the Chesapeake and Ohio canal from Cumberland, Md., to the waters west of the Allegheny mountains--is now being prepared for presentation to Congress. The latest survey made presents a route different in many points from the previous surveys, leading along the Potomac to Savage river, up which it leads to a point selected for the summit level, which requires a tunnel six miles in length, to connect on the west side with the Castleman river feeder of the Youghiogheny. The advantages claimed for the new line are, first, the fact that it leads from Cumberland, Md., directly through the Cumberland coal basin, thirty miles west from the present point of coal shipments, by water, and would thus make a reduction of some eighty cents per ton in the cost of handling and, second, it would open up for operation and use the great coal basin on the west slope of the Alleghany mountain, crossing what is known as the Savage coal field, which previous surveys, leading along the Potomac to Savage river, up which it leads to a point selected for the summit level, which requires a tunnel six miles in length, to connect on the west side with the Castleman river feeder of the Youghiogheny. The advantages claimed for the new line are, first, the fact that it leads from Cumberland, Md., directly through the Cumberland coal basin, thirty miles west from the present point of coal shipments, by water, and would thus make a reduction of some eighty cents per ton in the cost of handling and, second, it would open up for operation and use the great coal basin on the west slope of the Alleghany mountain, crossing what is known as the Savage coal field, which are not now extensively worked, because of want of facilities for transportation to a market. The estimated cost of the Savage and Castleman river line, including the tunnels, is twenty millions, and would extend the canal from its present terminus at Cumberland, to Connellsville, on the Youghiogheny, a distance of 120 miles, from which point there is slackwater and river navigation to Pittsburgh. The water supply is sufficient to fill the proposed reservoirs thirteen times each season, and each time the reservoirs are filled the supply would be amply sufficient to furnish water, allowing for every waste, for one hundred and seventy boats per day for one hundred and ten working days, or a capacity of six millions of tonnage each season of ten months navigation.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, January 28, 1874.

We have received from the Superintendent of the Banking Department of the State of New York his report for the year 1873. From this we learn that six new banks have been organized under the law of that State, and that six national banks have surrendered their charters to the general government and been converted into State banks. The whole number of banks reported in 1873 was eighty. The circulation of these banks, as compared with the year before, are as follows:

	1872.	1873.
Capital	$ 24,825,049	$ 26,908,890
Loans and discount	66,076,361	71,073,544
Due depositors	75,491,892	79,741,491
Total resources	117,588,811	116,536,734

The number and extent of the transactions of the State banks have almost doubled during the last six years, in spite of the unfriendly legislation of Congress.

The superintendent goes on to criticise the national banking system, and says that the issues of currency should not be wholly left in the hands of the general government, because arbitrarily managed and liable to abuse; under the prohibition tax of Congress, State circulation can no longer be issued, and so long as the tax remains we must be content with the currency, which is inadequately distributed and not adapted to the wants of trade, without the inherent powers of expansion and contraction demanded by the necessities of business.

That the system is defective is seen in the numerous propositions for amendment and in the substitutes presented to Congress, and in the solicitations for legislation for important changes by the large commercial associations of the country which represent the trained capacity and the practical knowledge of the men who are foremost in our grand domestic enterprises and industries, and who direct our commerce and traffic with other nations. The material modification of the National Banking law is demanded, with the repeal of those restrictions which prevent the formation of new banks, and limit the powers of State banks by onerous discrimination against them. Banking should be free; such a system only is consonant with the spirit of our institutions and the temper of our people.

The chief features of his plan are freedom to deposit United States bonds, specie redemption and a general State supervision. This, he says, would conform to the banking law of New York State in 1838, except that the paper money, instead of being local and diversified, would be uniform and national in its character. Congress would use its power to regulate the currency of the country, and the States would retain the control of its adaptation to the wants of the people, the requirements of trade, the growth and expansion of commerce and the manufacturing interests of the nation. The volume of the currency would expand and contract in obedience to the general laws of trade and not by the clamor of adventurers and speculators.

Money being a standard of values, intrinsically of little worth, valuable only so far as it represents purchasing power, why should the representative of value be restricted in its volume more than the actual values themselves except so far as the lessons of intelligent experience teach the amount required to meet the varying conditions of commerce? Gold and silver being the recognized standard in all countries by which values are measured and determined, including paper money, it becomes necessary to redeem, on demand a paper currency in coin, in order to give it stability and a uniform value approximating in the highest degree to gold value.

The following are some of the statistics reported:

The amount of secured circulation outstanding on September 30, 1872, was $1,148,329. The amount of the same on September 30, 1873, was $656,940. The decrease during the year is $491,389. The amount of unsecured circulation still outstanding and obliged to be redeemed by incorporated banks, September 30, 1872, was $753,462 50. The amount of the same on September 30, 1873, was $743,876 50. Decrease during the year $9,586. The total circulation still outstanding is $1,400,816 50. The amount of notes received and burned for redemption during the past year is $39,922; free banks, $15,241; incorporated banks, $6,731. One hundred and fifteen banks have increased their secured circulation to the amount of $480,912 upon their final closing. This sum, together with the notes burned, make an aggregate canceled circulation of $591,855.

"The aggregate sum of securities held by the Superintendent in behalf of the State, January 1, 1874, was $1,623,651 45. Of this amount $1,122,672 77 were held for banking associations, individual bankers and incorporated banks, and $530,978 68 for trust companies."

--Under date of the 26th we have the following full report of various financial matters referred to in our dispatches of that date:

"The bill to redeem legal tender notes and to regulate and strengthen the credit of the United States, introduced into the house of representatives on the 9th inst. by Mr. Burnside, provides for reducing one-half of the legal tender notes by issuing in their stead five per cents, three year compound interest notes at the rate of $7,000,000 per month, redeemable in four and a half per cent. thirty year gold bonds. The other half of the present legal tender notes are to be retired by issuing legal tender regulating currency notes, redeemable on demand by international five per cent. gold bonds, the notes so redeemed to be held to exchange for bonds, the bonds to be held to redeem notes and so on. Four and one-half per cent. forty year gold bonds are to be issued at par for lawful money to banking associations in States and Territories, until each shall have banking associations, with a circulation amounting to $5 per capita of its inhabitant, and the money received to be used to purchase bonds bearing a higher rate of interest, these associations to be subject to the present banking laws. One-half of the interchangeable bonds may be held as a reserve whenever the compound interest notes first issued shall mature. The banks shall have one-third reserve in coin. The government may redeem the notes issued under this act at any time with gold. The bill was referred to the Committee on Banking and Currency."

--Mr. Orth, of Indiana, introduced a bill for the issue of $2,000,000,000 of circulating notes, to be known as "United States gold-bond notes," which are to be held in the Treasury as a reserve, and exchangeable at par for any of the outstanding bonds of the United States at the pleasure of the holder; depositories to be established in all the leading cities to facilitate such exchange; the interest accruing on all bonds thus surrendered to the government, shall be retained by the government and shall, with 50 per cent. of the coin accumulated in the Treasury, not needed for paying interest on the public debt, constitute a sinking fund--after it reaches the amount of $400,000,000--for the redemption of the gold-bond notes issued under this act; any national bank may surrender its bonds now on deposit in the Treasury, and receive gold-bond notes to an amounts which, when added to the notes heretofore received by such bank, will be equal to the par value of such bonds, and such bank may, at any time, surrender its notes and receive in exchange the gold-bond notes under this act, and, when this is done, such bank is relieved from the redemption of its notes, or from holding any reserve, but shall, in all other respects, exercise its rights and privileges under the Banking act; any national bank failing for two years to surrender its bonds, now on deposit, shall redeem its currency in gold; the outstanding legal tender notes shall be redeemed at the same time the redemption of the gold bond notes is commenced. This plan is recommended by petitions from citizens of two-thirds of the counties of Indiana.

--The following table shows the prices of railway stocks, gold, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange, during the day. Furnished by Luther S. Kauffman, broker, 96 Fourth avenue.

January 28, 1874.	10:30	11:30	12:30	1:30	2:30	3:30
	A. M.	A. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.
Gold	111¾	111¾	111¾	111¾	111¾	111¾
Western Union Teleg'h	26¾	25⅞	26⅜	26	26¼	26⅜
Pacific Mail	41¾	41¾	41¾	41¾	41⅞	41⅞
Adams Express	.....	64¼	.....	64¼	.....	.....
Wells-Fargo Express	.....	61¾	.....	61	.....	61
American Express	.....	61	.....	61	.....	61
United States Express	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
New York Central	102¾	102¾	102¾	102¾	102¾	102¾
Erie	47	46¾	.....	47⅛	.....	47⅛
Michigan Central	.....	88½	.....	88	89	88
Michigan Southern	81¾	81¾	82	81¾	81¾	81¾
Illinois Central	.....	100	.....	100	.....	.....
Cleveland & Pittsburgh	.....	88½	.....	88	90	.....
Chicago & Northwestern	.....	69¾	.....	.....	69	69⅝
Do Preferred	72¾	72	.....	72⅝	.....	73
Rock Island	104¾	104¾	.....	104¾	.....	104¾
St. Paul	45⅝	46	46⅛	46	.....	46⅛
Do Preferred	81	81	81	81	.....	81
Wabash	53⅜	53⅜	53⅜	53⅜	53⅜	53⅜
Fort Wayne	.....	102	.....	102	.....	.....
Ohio and Mississippi	33⅜	33⅜	34⅛	34⅛	34⅛	34⅛
Pacific	98	98	98	98	98	98
Chicago and Alton	.....	108½	.....	108½	.....	.....
Hartford	.....	124½	.....	125	125	125

--The following are the quotations for government and State bonds received by wire from New York to-day:

GOVERNMENTS.	Morn.	Noon.	Close.
U. S. 6s 1881	117¾	117¾	117¾
1881, coupons	117¾	117¾	118¾
5-20s, 1865	115	114¾	114¾
5-20s, 1864	116¾	116¾	116¾
5-20s, 1865	117¾	117¾	117¾
5 10-40s, new	116¾	116¾	116¾
5-20s, 1867	117¾	117¾	117¾
5-20s, 1868	117¾	117¾	117¾
10-40s	112¾	112¾	112¾
6-40s, coupons	114	114	114
Currency 6s	115½	115½	115½
New 6s	113	113	113
STATE BONDS.			
Tennessee, new	81	81	80½
Tennessee, old	75	75	75
South Carolina, April	9	9	9
Missouri 6s	93½	93	93

--Robinson & Co., bankers, Fourth avenue furnish the following report of active stocks in the Philadelphia Board:

Penna. R.	48¾
Penna. S. P.	94¾
Reading	57
N. C. & N. I.	15½
Oil Creek	16½
Lehigh Valley	60
C. & A.	90¾
Central Transportation	48¾
Empire Transportation	50
Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and St. Louis	79

Further Decline in Refined Sugars.

The Belcher Refining Company made another reduction of ⅛c on all grades of their sugars, dating 23d inst. Below we present card rates:

Cut loaf sugar	13¼@
Crushed sugar	11⅝@
Granulated sugar	11⅜@
Powdered sugar	11⅜@
Coffee powdered sugar	11¾@
Coffee sugar, A	10¾@
Coffee sugar, B	10⅜@
Coffee sugar, extra C	10⅛@
Coffee sugar, C	10⅛@
Refined yellow sugar, XXX	9¾@

--St. Louis Globe, January 24.

Philadelphia Live Stock Market.

PHILADELPHIA, January 28.--Beef cattle dull; sales 3,000 head; extra Pennsylvania and Western steers $7 90@7 75; fair to good $6@7; common $4 @5 50. Sheep in fair demand; sales 10,000 head at $5 25@7 25. Hogs firmer at $8 50@8 75.

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, WEDNESDAY, January 28, 1874.

REMARKS--The weather continues wet, muddy and disagreeable, being anything but favorable to outdoor business transactions. However, there is one consolation: it is not cold, but no one can tell what a day or a night may bring forth.

The rivers are in fine boating order, and steamers are arriving and departing punctually on time, bringing to and bearing away from the city rich cargoes of merchandise.

As before remarked, there is considerable uneasiness among ice men as to when, if at all, they will find an opportunity to harvest their crop, so essential in the manufacture of ice cream, cold water and invigorating summer beverages. Be patient, gentlemen, the cold weather is not over yet.

The flour market was quiet and rather stronger. The stocks in the market are reported large than they have been for some time. Dealers appear to be confident that prices will ere long go higher.

The scarcity and high prices of dried fruits has caused an active demand for canned goods which are now selling freely at quotations.

The produce market is fully supplied with all articles usual to that line of trade, and a very active business is doing. The supply of game, poultry, etc., is large, and should the weather continue to rule warm prices will recede.

There is a good demand for wheat, corn, oats and rye. Barley is in better request and is arriving freely.

We may remark that whilst there is a seeming activity in the market, buyers are careful not to purchase more than will meet their immediate wants. People want to know what Congress intends to do about the currency. Until that question is settled prudent business men will act with due caution.

Below will be found the receipts of leading articles of produce for the past twenty-four hours:

Flour, bbls	609	Apples, bbls	210
Corn, sks	1,530	Wheat, sks	850
Barley, sks	540	Rye, sks	210
Oats, sks	210	Butter, pkgs	25
Bacon, sides	2,000	Bacon, tierces	80
Potatoes, bush	1,050		

The following are the receipts of the leading articles of produce received by rail and river during the past two weeks:

	Last week.	This week.	Total.
Flour, bbls	11,078	9,719	21,297
Apples, bbls	868	1,688	2,176
Cheese, boxes	265	194	459
Corn, sks	5,227	7,398	12,625
Wheat, sks	3,776	4,594	11,764
Barley, sks	14,792	8,789	19,581
Rye, sks	1,594	2,523	3,921
Oats, sks	9,023	7,346	16,369
Butter, pkgs	308	164	472
Bacon, pcs	13,230	21,405	34,775
Bacon, tcs	125	574	699

Below will be found the wholesale rates of the market, unless special mention is made to the contrary:

ALES--The following are the ruling prices at which the different brands named are sold in this market: X $5 00@ 5 25; family, extra $10 @ 10 50; Base English ale, in gildersius of 22 gals, $22 @22 24; bbls, 41 gals, $26@ 26 50; qrs, 63 gals, $22 50@25 00; in cases, 4 doz bottles, $20 75; Younger's India pale ale, in cases of 4 doz bottles, $4 @ 4 25; Robert Younger's sparkling ale, in cases, $4 @ 4 25; Guinness' stouts, bottled by E. & A. Burke, $5 @ 6 doz; Caldwell & Cochrane's ginger ale $2 25 @ doz; Caswell, Hazard & Co.'s ginger ale $2 @ doz.

APPLES--There is a fair supply, but there is no active demand for prices. We quote $2 00, $3 00@4 25 @ bbl, as to quality and condition.

APPLE BUTTER.--The demand is reported more active, with sales at 60@65c @ gal.

ASHES--The market is reported dull, and will so remain until the glass houses again go into full blast. We quote as follows: Soda ash, common, 3½@4cc; refined, 5c; potash, 9c; pearl, 10c; arsenic, 2½c; lead, 5c.

BUTTER--The late liberal receipts of butter has not seriously affected the prices. The consumers and country roads prevent peddlers from bringing their usual supply, hence many retail dealers find it difficult to obtain enough for their customers. We quote: Choice roll 35@38c; solid packed 30@32c; inferior 12 @14c.

BEANS--There is a good demand for choice white Navy at $2 00@2 50 @ bushel.

BROOM CORN--Sales of red and red topped at 5½@6½c; fair to good green 7¼@8½c; huri, 9¾@10c @ lb.

BOXES--Prices unchanged at 9c @ lb.

BAGGING--No. 1 at 20c @ yard; 2 @ doz; No 4 $3. @ dozen; No 5, $3 25 @ doz; carpet brooms $4 @ dozen; hurl brooms and whisps, $1 75@2 00, to a jobbing way, from store, 25 to 37½c @ dozen additional.

BACON AND PROVISIONS--Hams, sugar cured extra @ lb., 13c; shoulders, extra sugar cured, @ lb, 9¼c; breakfast bacon, sugar cured, 12½c; dried beef, extra sugar cured @ lb, 16@½; beef tongues, extra sugar cured per doz, $7 50; bacon shoulders, @ lb, 6½c; hams (not sugar cured), 12½c; bacon short rib sides @ lb, 9¼c; bacon clear sides, 10½c @ lb; pure leaf lard, in tierces, @ lb, 10½c; refined do for summer use, in tierces, @ lb, 10¾c; refined do for summer use, in kegs, @ lb, 11c @ 11½c; refined do in 5 lb cans, @ lb, 12¼c; refined do in 5 lb cans, @ lb, 12½c; refined do in 2 lb pails, @ lb, 12¾c; refined do in 5 lb pails @ lb, 13c; refined do in 6 lb pails, 13c; ham sausage, 10c.

CANNED GOODS--The market presents an unusual activity for so early in the season. This is prosably owing to the scarcity and high prices of dried fruits. The gap that was made in the steadily advancing market during the summer and fall panic is being rapidly closed. Most all lots of staple goods offering under regular prices have been picked up, and the jobbers are now putting it on record here, that buyers of canned goods, pickles, &c., will pay considerably more for them before mixed days than what they can be bought at now. We quote: 2 lb tomatoes, @ doz, 2 lb peaches, @ doz, @ doz 2 lb pine apples, $2 50; Winslow's corn, @ doz, 3 @ doz; Portland sugar corn, @ 2 75 @ doz; 3 lb tomatoes, @ doz, $2 50; 3 lb peaches, @ doz, $3 00@3 50; 3 lb pumpkin, @ doz $2 00.

CHEESE--The market continues quite and unchanged from last week's quotations. We are receiving figures: Prime Ohio Factory, in a jobbing way, at 16@15c; New York factories, 16@15c; Ohio Factory, Western Reserve, 14c; Ohio Swizer 16@15c.

CARBON OIL--Sales, f. o. b., at works at 19c @ gallon, with the usual advance from stores.

CRANBERRIES--$10 00 @$10 50 to $4 per box.

CONCENTRATED LYE--Sales at $7 50@8 per case of four dozen packages.

CORN MEAL--Sales at $3 @ ton for unbolted meal, and in a small way at $1 60 @ cwt., from store.

CRACKERS--Quiet; sales of 50 bbls at former snaps, 12½c; oyster crackers 7c; soda crackers 7c; sugar crackers 9½c; butter crackers 9c; wine do 7½c @ lb.

CEMENT--We are reported sales of Youghiogheny cement at $1 75@2 00 with an active trade demand; Beeson's Phœnix $2 @@$1 00; Louisville $2 25@2 50; Scotch in a small way at $2 50@3 00; Portland plaster $4 50; land plaster $3 00@3 50.

CANDLES--Manufactured adamantine stocks prices are higher. Apples are held at 8@10c; prime peaches, halves command 14@16c; peeled 18@20c; blackberries 14@15c.

DRESSED HOGS--Stock light and market dull--sales in a small way at 6½@6¾c @ lb.

EGGS--Inst at 25@26c for fresh; pickled 14@15c @ doz.

FISH--No. 1 extra mess mackrel $35; No. 1 mess do, $33; extra No. 1 shore mackrel, $28; No. 1 shore mackrel, $25; extra No. 1 bay mackrel, $19; No. 1 bay mackrel, $17; extra No. 2 shore mackrel, $17; No. 2 bay mackrel, $14; large No. 3 mackrel, $12 50; No. 3 mackrel, $10; extra No. 1 Labrador herring, $5 @ bbl; fish, $7 50@8 00; lake trout, $7 00@7 50; large Georges codfish, $7@7 50 @ 100; medium Georges codfish, $6 50 @ 100; rod herring, $4 50; scaled do, No 1 25c @ box.

FEATHERS--No 1, 78@80c @ lb; No 2 C, 70@72c, as to quality and quantity.

FLOUR--The market is quiet and rather strong. The stock in the market is larger than we have seen it for a long time. Dealers are confident that prices will go higher and consequently refuse to offer still more, as they look for a brisk trade after the first of the month and big to the bad roads in the country, orders from this section for the past few days have been unusually light. We quote as follows: St. Louis, $7 75; family Indiana, $7; Rochester, $6 25; Minnesota, $7 50@8 75; Wisconsin, $7 00@7 25 Rye flour, $5 50; Corn meal, $5 50.

AXLE GREASE--Sales are reported as follows: Bbls, @ lb 6c; ½ do, @ lb 6¾c; ¼ do, @ lb 7c; kegs, @ lb 8c; cans, 3 lb $1 50.

GROCERIES--The advance in coffees has ceased for the present. Following are the ruling quotations of the market:

Coffee--Green, choice 34c; prime 33c; good 30@31c; fair 29@30c; Java 41c. Roasted coffee--In papers, 37c; in bulk, 36½c; Java 45c.

Tea--Young Hyson 50c@$1 10 @ lb; Gunpowder 50c@$1 25; Imperial 50c@$1 00 @ lb; Japan 55c@$1 00 @ lb; Oolong 85@55c @ lb; fancy $1 00 @ lb; Souchong 25@55c @ lb.

Sugars--Standard Ex C 10½c; Standard B 10¼c; Standard A 10¾c; standard yellow 10c.

Molasses--Strictly prime New Orleans, 75c; choice, 80c, and scarce; old crop, 65@70c, and little in market.

Syrup--Extra White Drips 70c; Sugar Drips, 60c; Amber 60@65c; fair grades 55@60c, as to quality.

Rice--Choice Carolina 9@9½c; Patna 8@8½c; Rangoon, 7@8c.

GRAIN--The mills are taking all the wheat offered, and there is but little doing in other varieties. The following are the selling figures of the market: Prime red wheat is held at $1 60@1 65; choice white, $1 70@1 75; amber, $1 70@1 75. Oats $3 50@3 75 bush; in a jobbing way, from store, 25 to 37½c @ dozen additional.

BAKER'S BAKING POWDER--Trade active and sales large; ⅛ @ can; 25 cans per doz at $1 60; ¼ @ do $3 00; 1 lb do $5 50; 5 lb cans per $2 00; 10 lb cans per @ do $9 50.

BACON AND PROVISIONS--Hams, sugar cured extra @ lb., 13c; shoulders, extra sugar cured, @ lb, 9¼c; breakfast bacon, sugar cured, 12½c; dried beef, extra sugar cured @ lb, 16@½; beef tongues, extra sugar cured per doz, $7 50; bacon shoulders, @ lb, 6½c; hams (not sugar cured), 12½c; bacon short rib sides @ lb, 9¼c; bacon clear sides, 10½c @ lb; pure leaf lard, in tierces, @ lb, 10½c; refined do for summer use, in tierces, @ lb, 10¾c; refined do for summer use, in kegs, @ lb, 11c @ 11½c; refined do in 5 lb cans, @ lb, 12¼c; refined do in 5 lb cans, @ lb, 12½c; refined do in 2 lb pails, @ lb, 12¾c; refined do in 5 lb pails @ lb, 13c; refined do in 6 lb pails, 13c; ham sausage, 10c.

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CANNED GOODS--The market presents an unus

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 1874.

Wanted.

WEEKLY CORRESPONDENCE of the following dates to complete our files: February 9th, July 13th and September 15th 1870, and March 1st, 1873.

HON. MORTON MCMICHAEL, of Philadelphia, has been suggested as the proper man to put on the Republican State ticket, at the next State election, for Lieutenant Governor. As some place on the ticket will, in all likelihood, be conceded to Philadelphia, we know of no one in that city who would be more acceptable to the Republicans of the State.

ACCORDING to the annual statement of the leading mercantile agency of New York, the entire number of commercial and financial failures, throughout the whole country, during the past year was 5,181, against 4,069 in 1872. Total liabilities $228,490,000, against $121,056,000 in 1872. In Pennsylvania there were 576 failures, with liabilities amounting to $31,415,000.

IT IS encouraging to note the fact that the internal revenue is being received in such volume as to inspire the Secretary of the Treasury with the belief that he will be able to get along after the remainder of the reserve shall have been exhausted. It is also suggested that, as the price of gold is going up, he may be able to renew his sales of gold, which would have the effect of increasing the currency circulation.

ELSEWHERE in this paper will be found a comparative tabular exhibit of the number of busines failures in the United States, with their amounts, by States, during 1873 and the year preceding. The statistics will be found full of interest, for by them we can best estimate the disasters of the year, during which a crisis occurred in the commercial affairs of the country, which, for a time, was so severe and trying as to be almost without parallel.

THE Supreme Court of the United States, in a case of appeal from the Supreme Court of Louisiana, involving the proceedings in confiscation against the property of ex-United States Senators SLIDELL and BENJAMIN, both of whom, it will be remembered, linked their fortunes with the Confederate cause, has just affirmed the opinion of the court below, that only a life estate passed by the confiscation, and does not affect the title of the children as heirs.

THE New York papers cannot resist the temptation to be churlish towards Philadelphia. They acknowledge that the Centennial of American Independence should be celebrated in Philadelphia, but they are so jealous of that city that they cannot avoid snarling at the proposition, pending before Congress, to make an appropriation for the celebration. It galls their provincial exclusiveness to think that a rival city is to be the theater of a national pageant of so much magnitude as the Centennial is likely to prove.

WE UNDERSTAND that Hon. MOSES HAMPTON, late President Judge of our District Court, will be a candidate for Congress in the Twenty-second district, before the Republican Congressional Convention. Judge HAMPTON began his political life in this county by running for Congress, to which he was twice elected, and in which he served with great acceptance; and it is fitting that he should round it off in its completeness by a return to the point of beginning. We are certain that the district will honor itself by choosing him.

IN ACCORDANCE with the resolution passed at the last annual meeting of the American Iron and Steel Association, a call has been issued for a union meeting of manufacturers of all forms of iron and steel in the United States, to be held in Philadelphia, on the 5th of February next. A special meeting of the association from which the call emanates, will be held in the same city on the day preceding, for the transaction of important business. The object of the second day's meeting is to bring about a closer and more efficient union of all the iron industries of the country.

ENGLAND is beginning to lose its centuried prestige as the workshop of the world. The Board of Trade returns for December again show a serious falling off in the exports of British produce and manufactures. The total value of these exports is £19,147,506, as compared with £20,516,253 in December, 1872, showing a decrease of £1,368,747, or nearly seven per cent, while the imports also exhibit a considerable increase both in value and quantity. The aggregate valuation is £33,-121,569, as compared with £29,341,917 in December, 1872, showing an increase of £3,779,-642, or thirteen per cent.

THE re-apportionment of judicial districts, rendered necessary by the new Constitution of this State involves a task of some delicacy, and we are glad to hear that there is a disposition at Harrisburg not to increase the number of judges more than eight or ten. There will be more new districts created than that; but in forming them, many of the districts now having both President and Associate Law Judges will be so divided as to have but one judge in each. There are at present fifty-seven law judges in the State; and these can be so assigned as to meet all the requirements of the Constitution with the help of eight new judges, or ten at furthest.

IF THE people are really earnest in their demand for governmental economy and retrenchment, now is the time for them to make the fact felt and known. All sorts of ingenious projects are being pushed in Congress to get money out of the national treasury. The number of private claims runs away up into the thousands, involving an aggregate amount which a hundred millions would not meet; and still they come, backed up by a powerful lobby, representing almost as many millions of dollars as the claims themselves, while, back of it all, there glooms the pregnant fact of an empty treasury, and a well-nigh exhausted reserve. Hands off, gentlemen.

AN IMPORTANT decision regarding the validity of State titles to Congressional land grants for railroad purposes, has just been rendered by Judge DILLON, of the United States Circuit Court of Iowa, to the effect that while Congressional grants confer legal title, it is only as a strict trust, and that a State can dispose of such lands only for the purpose for which they are granted; while the right to the lands can only become perfect when a section of twenty continuous miles has been completed; and that until such portion has been built, the State cannot part with the title, nor can its grantee sell or mortgage such lands in advance of the final perfection of title.

IT IS at least satisfactory to know that the proper Congressional committee have determined that no railway scheme involving subsidies or expenditures in any shape, or the contraction of any obligation by the government, whether by guaranty or interest, indorsement of bonds, or otherwise, shall be reported favorably. If there were no other reasons why such assistance ought not to be rendered, the argument of an empty treasury is of itself sufficient. To vote additional appropriations means increased taxation, and to this—except in matters which are national affecting the honor and greatness of the whole country—the people will not consent.

IF THE main body of Washington correspondents open up a yelping cry against an appropriation by Congress to aid the Centennial ceremonies, it will be a conclusive bit of evidence that the managers of the Centennial do not understand division and silence. There are unmistakible indications that the mercenary crowd who do up special dispatches for a portion of the Eastern and Western press are organizing a raid for this purpose, and we shall watch their further course with some degree of interest. It would be a happy thing for the purity of American journalism if the men who furnish news at the fountain head were as far above suspicion as they are keen of scent.

THE Louisville *Commercial* affirms that the future of the Republican party of that State was never so bright and full of promise as now, and that the false prejudices of the people are everywhere giving away before the economy, liberality, and progress of the party. This good news is all the more encouraging for the reason that the temper of the Democratic legislative majority in that State, as indicated by its recent sullen refusal to permit the United States flag to be hoisted over the State House during the session of the Legislature, and its decisive defeat of the bill to suppress the infamous Ku-Klux maraunders of the State, must naturally have the effect of still further opening the eyes of all who are not thoroughly blinded and besotted with reactionary passion and prejudice.

WE PUBLISH below a brief communication corrective of some late observations in this paper concerning the Russian Mennonites of Southern Nebraska. We may state, however, that our own remarks were based on the correspondence of an intelligent gentleman who also recently visited the colony in question, and conversed freely with its leaders.

HARMONY, BUTLER COUNTY, PA.,
January 24, 1874.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

In a recent issue of your paper, there appeared a short article referring to the "Russian Mennonites" in Southern Nebraska. You err in calling these people Mennonites. The Rev. J. F. Funk, editor of the *Herald of Truth*, published at Elkhart, Indiana, visited the colony in Nebraska recently, and conversed with a number of the people. He informs me that they are Lutherans, but came from the same section of Russia from which the Mennonites are emigrating.

SENTIMENTAL VIEW OF JOURNALISM.

One of the leading Berlin journals having lately changed proprietors and passed into new hands, the old editorial staff took farewell of their readers in an address, some portions of which may be fairly characterized as touching. The journalist, says the address in substance, filling a position intermediate between that of the literary man and that of the orator, tastes all the bitternesses of both occupations without the enjoyments of either. When some strong passion or earnest sentiment pervades his soul, and he would fain communicate it to others, he must remain ignorant of the fate of his words; he sees not the joyful lighting up of the reader's eye, hears not the encouraging plaudit of his mouth, but for the most part never knows whether the article which has cost him so much feeling and toil has been perused with smiling assent or with scornful protest. Either result would be more or less welcome as evidence of the effect of his words, but if neither impression has been produced, through no failure or neglect on his side, he cannot but feel that he has labored in vain. Nor has he the consolation of believing that his reward is only postponed, and that after time will do him justice. Swift and transitory as the fugitive sound of the voice, his written words pass away and at least seem to be forgotten or never heard. The orator, on the other hand, feels for the moment that he wields an almost sovereign power. By the might of his speech he dominates and sways the souls of his hearers, who involuntarily follow the flight of his spirit. Even for the poorest, feeblest book a better fate is reserved than for the production of the journalist's most happy moments. For its perusal the reader chooses a quiet, meditative hour, in which the whole attention may be given without interruption to its pages, while the journalist's lucubrations, if read at all, are read amidst the struggles and distractions of the busy day. The newspaper fills up the scanty moments snatched from business or it is glanced over in the restaurant whilst the babble of many tongues and other equally disturbing noises are dinning the readers' ears. Or, in the most favorable case, it is picked up at the evening tea-table when the boys are indulging their pleasant humors in the room. If, under any of the unpropitious conditions assumed, the reader flings aside his paper unread, or reads it with indifference, the journalist's entire day's work is lost, the object of which was to gain the attention, and if possible the approbation, of those into whose hands it might fall.

One might suppose that the author or authors of this somewhat gloomy account of the pains of journalism would be ready to abandon the profession, or if that course seemed practically unadvisable, at least to disparage the occupation as a poor and rather useless form of intellectual activity. But the Berlin newspaper men take no such unworthy view of the subject. In spite of all drawbacks and discouragements they affirm it to be a "good vocation—that of the journalist in these great times," and they declare that "one who has once entered its enchanted range will never forsake it." Doubtless they see clearly enough, in spite of its comparatively depressed condition and its imperfect appreciation on the part of the educated classes, that journalism even in Germany already wields an influence second only to that of the government, while the signs of its future growth and extension are manifest and abundant.

Few American journalists, we suppose, trouble themselves to find out or imagine the effect of their labors in individual cases. For one thing, every American newspaper writer knows that his journal will be distributed in a community of readers, among multitudes who have formed the habit of reading the newspapers, even if they read nothing else. He knows that the news whether of political movements and events, or in the more exciting and generally interesting form of accidents, calamities, etc., will be read with more or less attention by many, and that of the many a minority more or less considerable are likely to glance at any clearly expressed comments on the topics concerning which attention has been aroused by the facts. To demand or expect that such comments shall be read by any great number with close and respectful attention, or by a large majority with full intelligence would imply a quite romantic forgetfulness of ordinary human conditions. Alas! one remembers one's own delinquency in such reading.

It is, however, a mistake to disparage or undervalue the profession of the journalist on the ground either that his lucubrations are carelessly read or that a large proportion of the audience he addresses are ignorant people. A very able American journal, a few weeks ago, sneered at the pride with which certain members of the profession are wont to presume the extent of their influence from the multitude of their subscribers. What! said it all amount to, asked the mocker, when there may be few persons of culture among them? But the objection equally applies to most of those who are or aspire to be public instructors and who address popular assemblies. Relatively few lecturers or preachers enjoy the privilege of addressing their discourses to highly cultivated or even well informed audiences. It cannot be said with truth that the ordinary, average speaker has the advantage of the journalist in being able to perceive at once the effect of his words, or even of knowing with any certainty whether he is listened to, or produces any impression whatever with reference to the truths or opinions which he seeks to set forth. Indeed, the probability is that, except when a real orator is speaking, a much larger proportion than is commonly supposed of the audience are busy with their own thoughts or fancies. Fortunately both for the speaker and the newspaper writer, they are apt to live under the strange illusion first, we believe described by LEFROOT, which leads them to presuppose in the people about them the intelligence and insight necessary to appreciate their merits and that of their productions, however much they may undervalue or despise the intelligence and insight of the same people when applied to other persons and works.

TROUBLESOME QUESTION IN JAPAN.

It is not surprising to learn that an increasing number of the more intelligent Japanese of the higher and ruling class begin to feel anxious about the future of their nation. Of course, Japanese conservatives, hostile to foreign commerce and intercourse, have always anticipated evil and only evil from the astonishing changes of the last seventeen years. The persons to whom we allude as at present feeling anxious, belong, and perhaps have always belonged, to the party of reform, but they fear that in their eagerness to adopt foreign ideas and practices they may have gone too fast and too far. Such apprehensions are by no means confined to the Japanese; careful observers among the foreign residents sometime ago saw and reported signs which, in their judgment, seriously threatened what seemed to be the useful results of the great and wonderful revolution which intercourse with the outside world had effected. It would indeed have been very remarkable if changes so radical and wide-reaching in the government and customs of a people had been completely carried out and had become established without evil consequences. The real cause for wonder is that in Japan they did not earlier show themselves with the effect of exciting alarm, and producing reaction, and if the signs referred to merely inspire caution and reserve and enforce the policy of making haste slowly, there is perhaps no reason to believe that the transformation of the wonderful empire will be, in the end, less perfect or less advantageous to the people.

In connection with the important part which Americans performed in opening Japan to the Western world, it is gratifying to see that their government is not disposed to unite with some other powers in enforcing or urging additional changes for which the Japanese authorities think they are not yet prepared. A claim of this kind has lately become a very embarrassing question to the Japanese. England, France, and Holland insist that, in fulfillment of the promise formerly given, the Japanese government shall at once lay open the entire territory of the empire to foreigners and permit them to trade, or travel, or settle down wherever they please. The demand fills the Japanese with concern. They allege that in parts of the empire, especially in the parts not yet frequented by Europeans, the people are still hostile to foreigners and dissatisfied with the entire system of policy recently introduced, and that consequently the presence of foreigners in such places might easily and most likely would give rise to acts liable to compromise the government and cause complications with the States to which the strangers belonged. However, the Mikado declared himself willing to yield the point demanded, on condition that foreign governments renounce the privilege of consular jurisdiction at present enjoyed by them—that is—that foreigners in Japan instead of being amenable only to the jurisdiction of their respective consuls shall be amenable to Japanese laws and magistrates like the Japanese themselves. The Mikado's proposal indicates clearly enough the ground of the Japanese objection to foreign residents. The fact is that Europeans living among dark-skinned orientals are apt to abuse their conscious superiority of strength and dignity in a manner very hard to put up with. As the Hindoos say of the "Sahibs," the English who rule them, 'Drinking burning liquid (braudi-pani) and bottled thunder (soda-water), they cannot help being zabardast (violent)." In Japan it is the same, where Americans in spite of their democracy, no doubt manifest their superiority with as much emphasis as the Briton. No wonder the Japs desire to have all such strong sojourners subject to police interference. On the other hand, it is no wonder that the foreign powers unanimously decline the condition. Japanese laws are still the laws of a semi-civilized people, of orientals, of the subjects of an old pagan despotism, and they are administered in a way which no christian could or should endure.

Having rejected this Japanese proposition, the representatives of England, France and Holland, resolved to carry their point—the opening of the interior to their commerce—then demanded the immediate payment of a large money indemnity, $2,000,000, which the Japanese government owes on account of the Simonoseki affair of some years ago. But this proved a bad move on the part of the diplomatists, as the Japanese declared themselves ready to pay the money at once, and then proceeded to issue a decree in which they withdrew from Britons, Frenchmen and Dutchmen certain privileges not secured by treaty, but which they had before enjoyed through the liberality of the government. Thus foiled, the representatives then offered to renounce the indemnity or their government's share of the Simonoseki indemnity, in exchange for or in acknowledgement of the concession of their demand. But the Japanese replied that the opening of the country to foreigners was a political question, in the settlement of which money could have no influence. And they further replied that, in the adjustment of the question, they could not recognize in the representatives of England, France and Holland any authority to act for other powers as Germany, Italy, Russia, etc., with whom Japan had treaties and who were equally interested in the subject. Mr. BINGHAM, the representative of the United States, is understood to have kept himself aloof from the whole dispute, and the American government is believed to disapprove of the demand made by England, France and Holland.

DEADLY WARS.

According to dispatch from Penang, in our issue of yesterday, the Achenese continue desperately to resist the Dutch invasion. This news naturally surprised those readers who remembered the statement published a month or six weeks ago that the invaders had merely to show themselves to command the submission of their enemy. The truth was that the Sultan of Acheen, on learning the number and resources of the new Dutch expedition, was greatly alarmed and proposed to make peace with the invaders on their own terms. But the Sultan is yet a boy, only six-teen years old, and his ministers refused to sanction a step which seemed to them the dictate of childish fright. But the Sultan's proposal had been telegraphed to the Hague, where it was received with much satisfaction, completely reviving, one may fancy, the comfortable self-complacency so painfully disturbed by the defeat of last spring. In the meantime, the Achenese went vigorously forward with preparations for defense, and seem to have prevented the Dutch from making any advance beyond the position from which they had been driven at the time of their defeat, and which they had reoccupied on returning with their present expedition. It seems that the palace of the Sultan, the capture of which is the first and chief thing which the invaders have to do, is situated in the centre of an extensive quadrangle naturally strong and besides surrounded with high and massive walls of masonry. Within these outer walls are many strong buildings easily defended, besides open squares, and in the great inclosure abundant provisions are stored. In short, General VAN SWIETEN, the Dutch Commander-in-Chief, after such inspection as was possible, became so impressed by the strength of the position that, though his troops, 18,000 in number, are four times as many as formed the first expedition, and are besides thoroughly equipped, at once concluded to wait for reinforcements before attacking the place. If the dispatch of yesterday told the truth, it was while the Dutch were thus waiting for more soldiers that the Achenese assumed the offensive, and attacked without success the principal position held by the invaders, which, according to the same dispatch, the Dutch army has been reinforced, we may hear any day that it has made another attempt to capture the Sultan's stronghold.

It is certainly a noteworthy result of the treaty between England and Holland, by which one renounced its protectorate over Sumatra and the other resigned its possessions on the Gold Coast, that each of the parties to the exchange has on hand a most disagreeable and deadly war. In each case the climate is more terrible than the enemy, and in each case the work to be done can be done only in a certain part of the year. Should General VAN SWIETEN fail to reduce the Sultan's fort before the monsoon begins to blow, about the first of May, he will have to betake himself to his ships, and postpone the enterprise until a more convenient season. And Sir GARDNER WILKESLEY also must finish up his job with the Ashantees before the bad weather, under penalty of a degree of mortality among his troops not to be thought of. Even now in the winter the deaths by disease are frightfully numerous.

CHIEF JUSTICE WAITE.

The unanimous confirmation of Hon. MORRISON R. WAITE, of Ohio, to the office of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, appears to give general satisfaction, even the captious leaders of the opposition conceding him to be fitted in every particular for the exalted position to which he has been advanced. Chief Justice WAITE comes of good New England ancestry, and of a line of able lawyers. He is a son of the late Chief Justice WAITE, of Connecticut, one of the leading jurists of New England. He is in his fifty-eighth year. He was graduated at Yale College at the age of twenty-two. In 1858 he went to Toledo and entered upon the study of law, practicing with his preceptor for eighteen years. He has twice declined a seat on the Supreme Court bench of Ohio. In 1849 he was elected a member of the Legislature, serving with distinction. In 1862 he was a candidate for Congress, and, although defeated, he received a majority of twelve hundred in Toledo. In December, 1871, he was appointed as a counsel to Geneva, his associates rendering cheerful testimony to the value of his learning and labors during the arbitration, and the arbitrators themselves making special mention of the familiarity he manifested with the settled principles of international law and the historical precedents bearing on the case. He has for years been the acknowledged head of the Toledo bar, and was lately, by the unanimous vote of both parties, chosen President of the Ohio Constitutional Convention, now in session, of which body he was elected a member. He is represented by those who know him well to be a man of excellent reputation, honest in the highest sense, and capable according to a large order of ability. He is not brilliant, but has deeply studied American policy and jurisprudence. He was never willing to be a mere lawyer, and his friends say that, being eminently successful in the sense of having many and important cases, he was not indebted for his heavy docket to a heavy conscience, a brazen face or swift feet, but to ability and learning such as no mere lawyer can appreciate. He is, as a lawyer, at once practical and philosophic, and is as unassuming in his private manners as he is unpretending in his public utterances. His manner is simple and straightforward, while his disposition is that of a man as amiable as one of so much will can be. He is a sound Republican, and there is every reason to believe that, with experience, he will confer dignity upon the exalted office to which he has been appointed, and thoroughly justify the favorable expectations which are entertained concerning him by the country.

THE NEW CHIEF JUSTICE.

The unanimous confirmation of Mr. WAITE'S nomination is a happy termination to a long and unpleasant suspense. The public would have been better satisfied, probably, if they had known the nominee better, or had possessed fuller information about him; but the assurances from those who knew that he was eminently fit for the place, quieted all possible opposition, and the unanimious action of the Senate, is but a reflex of the prevalent public sentiment of the country.

We are still of the opinion that it would have been wiser to have promoted one of the Judges now on the bench of the Supreme Court, to this office, and that the rule, if once established, that the Chief Justiceship was attainable only by promotion, would stimulate the Judges of that court with a healthy ambition. But the President has decided otherwise, and the country will submit all the more cheerfully under the conviction that a Chief Justice has been obtained who will do honor to the place and to the nation.

The President, at the very outset, it would seem, had Mr. WAITE in his eye, for this place; but the result has proved it was fortunate he did not then send his name in, for the public expectation was at that time wound up to a high point, and no names but that of some well known lawyer would then have been acceptable. Mr. WILLIAMS'S nomination failed because he did not come up to this expectation, and although Mr. CUSHING was sufficiently well-known for ability, his defective character as a statesman was fatal to him. The consequence, however, of two such disappointments as these proved to be, was to prepare the public mind for the acceptance of any new name the President might send in, if it was not open to objection. Mr. WAITE'S nomination, therefore, while it does not come up to the general ideal of the incumbent of such a place, was sufficiently unobjectionable to be hailed as a welcome deliverance from a protracted state of doubt. Under the peculiar circumstances of the case, a nomination which at first would have been unsatisfactory, has been received with general acceptance.

We are satisfied, nevertheless, that Mr. WAITE will fully justify the wisdom of the selection made by the President. He has the ability which the place needs, and is peculiarly adapted to its duties; and the one fact that his name has not long been prominently before the public should not and will not be permitted to weigh against him.

AN ENCOURAGING OMEN.

The difficulty between the miners and the operators in the anthracite region came to an end so suddenly, after everyone had made up his mind that the trouble was irreconcilable, that the wonder is excited why it ever had an existence. The miners were contented with last year's basis of wages, and the operators, after a few days' refraction, have been content to offer a renewal of it. There was, apparently, no actual difference between the two; and the country has been stirred up with sensational reports that had not sufficient warrant.

The real secret of the difficulty between the miners and operators will be found, we fancy, either in a desire on the part of the Reading Railroad Company to coerce the individual operators in the Schuylkill region to sell out to that corporation, so as to give it a complete monopoly of the mining as well as carrying trade, or in an apprehension on the part of Mr. GOWEN that business was too much depressed throughout the country to warrant going on at the old rates. The sudden backout of the President of the Reading road would seem to render untenable the first supposition, for if he ever cherished any such purpose, he would not be likely to give it up so quickly; and the other conclusion is therefore the most probable. At the close of the last year the prospects of business did not look very encouraging, and since then they have greatly improved; so that it is altogether probable that the reduction which the miners resisted was undertaken when things looked blue, and has been abandoned under better prospects.

In this view of the case, the general resumption of work in the mining regions is an encouraging omen. It indicates faith in the future. It demonstrates that there is a market for all the coal that can be mined, at paying rates, and that the mills, and factories, and furnaces, and steamers which create the demand for coal, are likely to be kept actively at work during the present winter and the coming spring and summer. There is cheer and comfort in such a prospect, after the gloom we have just passed through; and we are glad to be able to draw so enlivening a conclusion from the abrupt termination of a difficulty which at one time threatened so many evil consequences.

THE terms of the following members of the State Senate expire in 1874, and elections for their successors will be held in the districts in which they shall happen to reside when the new apportionment is made, to serve for two years, viz: GRAHAM and HUMPHREYS, of Allegheny; *Wallace*, of Clearfield; DAVIS and *McClure*, of Philadelphia; *Collins*, of Luzerne; *McSherry*, of Adams; WEAKLEY, of Cumberland; STRANG, of Tioga; WHITE, of Indiana, and FITCH, of Susquehanna. (Democrats and Liberals in italics.) In addition, there will be seventeen new Senators to elect for two years to begin up the number to fifty, and these will be elected in the districts formed for the Senatorials will have no Senator residing in them at the time the new apportionment is made. Four of these will be in Philadelphia, and one each in Allegheny, Chester, Schuylkill, Luzerne, Westmoreland, Lancaster, Bradford, Northampton and York. The other four will be chosen in districts to be formed of two or more counties.

The Republicans ought to carry seven of the eleven districts now represented by the outgoing Senators, and perhaps eight in the new districts. This would give them 29 of the 50 Senators. Only eleven Senators are to be chosen in 1875, and they will be elected for one year, to fill the places of the eleven Senators whose terms expire next year. These are ALEXANDER, of Philadelphia; CUTLER, of Erie; LEMON, of Blair; RUTAN, of Beaver; MCKINLEY, of Lawrence; MACLAY, of Clarion; *Rowland*, of Pike; *Playford*, of Fayette; *Chalfant*, of Montour; HEILMAN, of Lebanon, and WALLACE, of Lancaster—eight Republicans and three Democrats. The three Democratic Senators in this list will probably remain in Democratic districts, and seven of the eight Republicans in Republican districts. The Clarion district will be Democratic.

AMERICAN iron holds its own against the world. The other evening a paper was read before the American Society of Civil Engineers, which is now in session in New York, giving the result of a number of experiments made in testing the strength of iron pins of different manufactures and quality. Specimens of the iron subjected to experiments were submitted with the paper. On Norway iron, it was found that a bar of the original diameter of 0.715 broke under a strain of 18,050 pounds, the tensile strength per square inch of original section being 45,125 pounds, and the tensile strength per square inch of fractured section being 121,490 pounds. English iron of the original diameter of 0.715 was found to fail under a strain of 19,030 pounds, the tensile strength per square inch of original section being 47,575 pounds. The strength of the contracted section per square inch of area was given at 62,567 pounds. The breaking strength of our best iron was found to be 50,340 pounds, the tensile strength per square inch of original section being 63,840 pounds. The tensile strength per square inch of the fractured section was 88,783 pounds. Another specimen of American iron of the original diameter of 1.00 sustained a strain of 39,250 pounds before giving way, the tensile strength per square inch of the original section of this quality being 49,974 pounds, and the tensile strength per square inch of the fractured section was given as 86,454 pounds. This statement is as creditable to the practical scientific knowledge and skill of our iron manufacturerers, as it should be gratifying to our national pride.

IT HAS become a question of some importance in France whether the bishops are at all amenable to authority as regards the language and topics of their pastoral addresses. While France is at peace with Germany, and desires to be on the most friendly terms with Switzerland and Italy, the dignitaries of the French church are constantly taking advantage of their official position to preach a literal crusade against all the nations named. German, Swiss and Italian rulers and statesmen are characterized as robbers, murderers, reprobates before GOD and man, divine interposition is invoked and even promised to deliver Europe from such monsters, and, in fact, if they are not assassinated it is only because Episcopal words are less influential now than formerly. It is hardly possible to believe that some of the letters referred to were written by sane men, and it is no doubt true that their authors have become genuine fanatics, under the peculiar teachings and trials of their church in recent times. The German government Is understood to have made formal complaint to the French authorities, on the subject, and the reasonable French press appeals to certain articles in the *code civil* as having a useful application to the railing bishops. In reply the organs of clerical opinion say pooh, whatever the provisions of the code may be, they can have no restraining force upon the bishops, whose rule of speech and action was long ago laid down authoritatively and forever by ST. PETER: "Thou must obey GOD rather than man." Bedlam would seem to be the only place for such people.

PRINCE CHANCELLOR BISMARCK has lately gained a considerable accession of glory of a new kind, at least in a new direction. As the late elections for the German Parliament fell on Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath, the Rabbis, and especially Rabbi BAMBERGER, were greatly perplexed about the duty of those Israelites who were unwilling to lose the privilege of voting. At length Rabbi BAMBERGER telegraphed BISMARCK on the subject of the difficulty, from whom he received the following answer: "Tickets may be inscribed on Friday; besides, while the Sabbath (Saturday) ends at 4 o'clock and 50 minutes, the election does not close until 6 o'clock, so that there remain an hour and ten minutes in which to vote." Quite satisfied with this solution, Rabbi BAMBERGER felt curious to ascertain whether his disciples were ingenious enough to find out what he himself had failed in without the assistance of the chancellor. He therefore laid the case before his students, but they were all as helpless as himself. Then the Rabbi showed them the dispatch from Varzin, whereupon they all admitted that BISMARCK was a greater Talmudist than they. The youngest of the disciples (a great friend of the empire), then rose up and said, "As he has shown himself a greater Talmudist than we, he must henceforth be called by us—'Rabbi BISMARCK,'" And so doubtless he will be in future called by some of the youthful children of Israel. A German paper is responsible for the statement.

A TEST CASE of general interest to pork-packers and dealers, has just been decided by the Arbitration Committee to which it was submitted. A controversy has long existed between sellers and buyers of bulk meats and dressed hogs, as to who shall pay the insurance upon the merchandise while it is in the hands of the packers, and before its sale to third parties. Regarding what are known as packing charges, there is a universal understanding that they go with the hogs, and that the buyer pays them whether he expressly contracts to do so or not, as it is the common custom. With the charge of insurance, however, it is different, and whenever there has been no express agreement in the contract there have been endless disputes as to whether the party who had his meat in the packer's warehouse should pay the interest accruing before the sale was made, or whether the buyer should do so, even although nothing had been said upon the subject. The committee, after a careful consideration of the facts, decided that insurance was not a legitimate packing charge, and therefore buyers, when no agreement was made, were not liable. The question thus decided has been an open one almost ever since hogs were first slaughtered and packed, and the precedent now set will establish a rule for the guidance of the trade in future.

THE annual report of the New York Commissioners of Emigration to the Legislature of that State, has just been presented to that body It contains many interesting statistics concerning the new elements of population which the country has absorbed during the past year. The entire number of passengers from foreign countries who landed at the port of New York during that period was 316,956, of whom 295,-851 were aliens. Of this number 104,215 were from Germany, 68,612 from Ireland, 33,189 from England, 8,392 from Scotland, 8,090 from Sweden, 6,847 from Italy, 6,417 from Norway, 6,850 from Austria, 6,102 from France, 4,287 from Holland, 3,759 from Denmark, 2,979 from Switzerland, 2,406 from Poland, 1,817 from Russia, 648 from Belgium, 621 from Wales, 517 from Luxemburg, 345 from West Indies, 221 from Spain, 119 from South America, 71 from Canada, 69 from China, 69 from East Indies, 53 from Mexico, 26 from Central America, 24 from Turkey, 15 from Portugal, 14 from Nova Scotia, 14 from Greece, 12 from Australia, and 10 from Africa. The destination of 95,951 was the State of New York, 43,882 the Middle States, 98,928 the Western and Northwestern States, 23,468 the Eastern States, 2,703 the Southern States, 3,201 Canada, and 33 South America. We are becoming more and more composite in our character and cosmopolitan in our traits, with the passage of each succeeding year.

THE Richmond *State Journal* sounds the alarm over the steady outward flow from Virginia of a large proportion of the best population of the State—namely, its young men and laborers, and of the consequent depreciation of real estate values, and the languishing condition of industry where there ought to be robust activity and enterprise. That paper thinks the first effort which should be made, is to get men with sufficient means to buy and improve farms, water powers and mines, and to employ labor. A very important and imperative step to take. The prosperity of Virginia, as of her sister States of the South, will be attained when the people learn to derive and supply the commodities of daily use from the materials which they have hitherto furnished to the adroiter and more prescient dwellers in the North. The home demand of the South for manufactured articles of iron, wool and cotton, ought to be almost or quite entirely supplied by her own industry. But this transformation will not be witnessed, nor this self-sustaining condition reached, either in Virginia or elsewhere, until those nations shall leave themselves forward out of the decaying Past and Then into the helpful and earnest endeavor of the living Here and Now. By all means encourage immigration, alike of money and muscle. But first get rid of those broken debris of the old system, which the people now hang around their necks as sacred relics. Else—albeit you entreat never so passionately—the new era will not dawn.

SOME curious and suggestive facts are brought to light by the New York *Times*, in its elaborate presentation of our immigration statistics for the last year—especially in the matter of difference of Irish and German distribution. Where one German goes to the Eastern, or manufacturing region, there go thirteen Irish; but where one Irish goes to the agricultural region of Middle, Western and West Mississippi States, he is accompanied by three Germans. The dislike of both nationalities for the late slave States is conspicuous. Less than four and a half in a hundred of Irish and only six in a hundred of German, have made their homes south of the Potomac and Ohio. Of German element tends toward the very basis of our nationality—the new States and the fundamental work of them, agriculture. The *Times*'s tables show the Teutonic immigration down to 1873 to have been 3,028,550, while that of the Irish was 2,905,231. Of late years, however, the German element has more strikingly predominated. For the financial year ending June 30, 1873, the report of immigration to all ports shows the largest host ever yet received in one year, it being no less than 459,803, of which grand army Ireland sent 77,344, while the Germanic portion of it numbered 192,093.

THE recent financial revulsion and its concomitant difficulties have evoked more earnest attention and discussion in regard to the present system governing Savings banks than has heretofore obtained. Depositors are anxious to obtain better security and facilities for the quick withdrawal of their money without submission to arbitrary rules, while bank officers and stockholders desire to secure permanent relief from "runs" and a too sudden withdrawal of deposits. The latter are also opposed to any examinations which would tend to expose the accounts of private individuals. In Illinois it is proposed to establish a Clearing House association composed of bankers doing business under the State laws, for the better regulation of the savings bank business and the appointment for that purpose of those of its members who have the implicit confidence of all concerned, and who would be empowered to act as a supervisory committee, with authority to make proper examinations of any and all banks coming under their jurisdiction. The suggestion is said to meet with great favor.

ANOTHER impracticable proposition is being urged in Congress, in the shape of a bill making it obligatory on the Commissioner of Agriculture to ascertain the annual amount of every agricultural product, including wool, and the supplies of animal food; the probable demand for each in our own and other countries, cost of shipping to market, prices realized from consumers, probable profits between producers and consumers, and prices in principal localities of production, the information thus obtained to be furnished to State Boards of Agriculture and some officer in every county in the country. The question naturally arises how a single official can satisfactorily perform the work which now gives full employment to a considerable number of clerks, constituted to these special objects. Unless a thing can be done well, it had better be left unattempted, while if, as in all likelihood is the case, the plan would necessitate a corresponding augmentation of the clerical force of the Bureau, the increased expense which it must entail upon the government ought of itself alone to insure its defeat.

UPON the whole, we doubt whether the bill which has just been introduced into Congress to establish a Department of Manufactures and Mining, ought to pass; all the more for the reason that the "general duties" which the bill imposes on the officers of the proposed Bureau are said to be "similar to those imposed on the Commissioner of Agriculture," which are a good deal more laborious than necessary or useful. Of course the diffusion of statistical and other information upon subjects connected with our rapidly expanding manufacturing and mining industries, is an important matter; but when it is considered that all these data would have to be derived from the press, from manufacturers, and from the promoters of our industrial enterprises generally, at first hand, before the Bureau could return it to them at second hand, the plan has a sort of supererogatory look about it which will not be apt to commend it to the favor of the tax-payers. Is it worth while to incur the expense of constructing an engine for pumping water out of the sea, simply in order that it may be pumped back again?

ROBBERS of Western trains in this country are thrown into the dimmest possible shade by a band of Spanish brigands, who recently plundered the passengers on a train on the Andalusian railroad, near Puerto Baddollano. Instead of firing wildly at the locomotive and into the cars, and wrecking the engine by placing obstructions on the track, after the manner of our Occidental highwaymen, or railwaymen, the Spanish robbers quietly displayed a danger signal. After the speed had been checked, they compelled the engineer, fireman, conductor, and brakemen to remove the rails for several hundred yards in front and rear of the train; then quietly, at the mouths of their revolvers, possessed themselves of the money and jewels of the passengers, and, their booty secured, rode off. In plundering railroad travelers, the Spaniards excel our own banditti, as far as the amenities of civilization are concerned.

THE transactions in real estate in the city of Washington for the past year indicate a very satisfactory progress toward a substantial future for the material prosperity of the national capital. There were 3,428 transfers, of the aggregate amount of $12,195,300, a sum within a fraction of the whole amount invested in 1871 and 1872, and upwards of twenty per cent. more than that invested last year. A large portion of the property thus purchased was bought by new residents, persons of wealth attracted there from various sections of the Union, a class of comers which is said to be rapidly on the increase. It is claimed that, should the present ratio of growth continue, the city will number several hundred thousand inhabitants by the end of the present decade. The chances that St. Louis will ever scale the heights of her fond ambition in this matter, would seem to grow "fine by degrees and beautifully less."

A PROPOSITION for the publication of the rebel archives purchased by the government some two years ago, will shortly be made in Congress. It is stated that Colonel PICKETT, from whom they were obtained, examined them carefully, making a complete list, and copying the most important—which copies, it is understood, he yet retains, the examination, establishing in his mind the truth of the worst charges made against JEFFERSON DAVIS and his immediate advisers, as to their endeavors and plots to burn northern cities, introduce pestilence, raid on our frontiers, and perpetrate other acts of an inhuman and piratical character. Should the resolution pass, there will be a fearful quaking among the dry bones of many a political sepulchre.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

An Iowa machinist is constructing the smallest steam engine on record. The cylinder is to be no larger than a grain of wheat—almost as small as a lobbyist's soul.

There is some talk of the appointment of a national executioner, to be selected by a competive examination. Begin on Dana.

California has 636 and 780 mining ditches and is going to build more. What a splendid place for McClellan!

Matters in Congress have come to a pretty pass when white men and Democrats are put down in debate by "niggers," as was Harris, of Virginia, by Elliott, the other day, and on Saturday Robbins, of North Carolina, by Cain!

The Boston warehouses are running their "elevators" by water power. This is supposed to be a consequence of the prohibitory law.

Thirty-five thousand young salmon have just been turned loose in a small branch of the Shenandoah, and we shall presently begin to look for a marked improvement in the Old Dominion newspapers. Reason—phosphorus.

Probably the chief cause why American girls refuse to enter domestic service is, that they object to anything approaching menial employment—what they seek is hy-menial.

Virginia boasts that she has more of her population at college than any other